



Grand Lodge Bulletin

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

DONALD DELMAR McQUEEN



Past Grand Master of Masons in the Jurisdiction of Alberta, Donald Delmar McQueen passed to the Grand Lodge Above on January 20, 1978. He was one of the best loved and well known of our Past Grand Masters. Masonry was his life style and visiting masons and their lodges was his most cherished activity. Known for his broad smile and hearty handshake, a meeting was always brightened by his presence. Many a Mason who was passing through difficult and sorrowful times has been encouraged and helped by the spirit of brotherhood that permeated his personality. Not only did he give leadership to the Craft in Alberta, but he also was a stalwart of his Mother Lodge, Vulcan No. 74 for fifty years. His year as Grand Master was marked by extensive visiting and by the reorganization of the districts within the jurisdiction and the creation of District Number 20.

M.W. Bro. McQueen was born in Deloraine, Manitoba on April 17, 1895 of Canadian parents who moved to Western Canada from Stayner, Ontario in 1891. The family moved to Saskatchewan in 1905 and to Lethbridge in 1908. It was in Lethbridge that M.W. Bro. McQueen received his public and High School Education. In 1916 the McQueens moved to Vulcan.

His father was initiated into Vulcan Lodge No. 74 in 1921, was its Worshipful Master in 1930 and District Deputy Grand Master of District 11 in 1936-37. Del was destined to follow the footsteps of his father in Freemasonry when he was initiated into Vulcan Lodge on January 2, 1928, just over fifty years before his death. He was raised on March 6, 1928. In 1943 he was the Worshipful Master and in 1948-49 was District Deputy Grand Master. In 1953-54 he was called to serve in that office a second time. In addition

to all these activities he assumed the duties of Lodge Secretary in 1945 and retained this position until a few years ago. He was elected Junior Grand Warden in 1955 and installed as Grand Master of Masons in Alberta on June 12, 1958. His years as Past Grand Master were marked by unceasing activity and by a genuine support of his successors in that high office.

During his years as Secretary of Vulcan Lodge he was especially concerned about the monthly Lodge Notices. The result is that the Vulcan Lodge Notice has become one of the outstanding notices in the jurisdiction. It has never failed to carry a truly masonic message well worth reading. The Grand Lodge Bulletin has quoted from it on a number of occasions.

In private life M.W. Bro. McQueen was active in Municipal Work. When the County of Vulcan was organized he became its Secretary-Treasurer and held this post for 32 years until his retirement in 1967. Following retirement the Town of Vulcan recognized his leadership and experience by electing him as their Mayor for six years. He was widely known as an expert in Municipal Government. He leaves to mourn his loss his wife who resides in Vulcan and a host of friends.

The Memorial Service, following cremation, was held in Vulcan United Church on Wednesday, January 25th, with Rev. Wm. Ball officiating. It was a cold, blizzardy day which prevented many of his masonic brethren from travelling to pay their last respects. None the less his masonic record has earned for him a place in the history of this Jurisdiction and it will be many years before his influence is forgotten. M.W. Bro. A.O. Aspeslet, PGM, was in attendance and R.W. Bro. E.H. Rivers, P.G.S., V.W. Bro. C. Simpson and Bro. K. Gatenby were honorary pall bearers.

"COMMUNICATING WITHIN THE LODGE"

W. Bro. R.N. Yates, Symbol No. 93

Our Grand Master's theme this year is "Communicate" and I will be trying to express some thoughts on "Communicating with Brethren within the Lodge".

I do not believe that this can be answered simply, because there are too many factors involved. To properly communicate within the lodge you have to communicate with brethren out of your lodge as well. In other words, we have to live masonry in order to communicate properly.

When a new member enters a lodge he goes through a very traumatic experience. Without being able to see his way he has been led along a symbolically tortuous path to the final moment of oblivion. He is then given the benefit of certain lectures explaining the symbolism of his 'initiation', 'passing' and 'raising'. It is only natural then that he should need further encouragement to continue on in his career as a Mason.

The first thing to be done is to keep him occupied with activities in the lodge. Degree work is an excellent method of keeping a new member active. If he is given a part to play in some other brother's initiation he will naturally associate the proceedings with his own experiences, by seeing another brother being brought to light he receives further light himself.

It is also very enjoyable and important to visit with other lodges. By communicating with your neighbour brother you automatically communicate more meaningfully in your own lodge.

I would like to give an example here of the pleasure of visiting. One year I was traveling in central British Columbia and went to Barkerville to see the old ghost town there. There was no accommodation in Barkerville, all motels and lodgings being in Wells - a few miles away. While there I was conversing with a gentleman in the information booth and we very soon became acquainted as Masons which resulted in me being invited to attend lodge in Barkerville that evening. Barkerville is No. 4 on the Register of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and as Barkerville is a ghost town - all members are non-resident. Some of them came from as far away as Prince George for that meeting. The Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden were natural brothers as well as masonic brothers and also were of Chinese descent being 5th generation Canadians who were born and raised at Wells.

Needless to say, the evening was a complete success and you can well understand how enjoyable it was to be able to visit such a historic lodge and converse with brethren of such varied endowments.

This is a good illustration of the value of Masonry in operation. Wherever you visit you will find a brother who will make you welcome. Where you can visit, communicate, and then return to your home lodge to continue communicating within your own lodge.

Preparing a talk to give in your lodge is a rewarding task and one that gives pleasure to all. By giving it one communicates with his brethren to the mutual benefit, interest and pleasure of all. It has been found, on many occasions, that this stimulates interest and participation with all brethren. The newly raised brother will feel inadequate to

complete a paper of this kind at first, but will reap the benefit of an older brother's labours and broaden his masonic horizon and before long he himself will be giving of himself in the interests of Masonry.

The fellowship hour, or 4th degree, is an important time in the life of a mason. All should look forward with real anticipation to that time when all the brethren are gathered round the table - communicating with one another. This is the time when interest in masonry can be greatly stimulated by anecdotes, prepared papers or program of interest to all. Even the new brother could, and should, be encouraged to participate to the full. This, of course, is taking into consideration the logical conclusion - that the sponsors of the new brother have not forgotten him once he has been raised, but that they have kept in frequent contact with him, advising him of all activities within the lodge and inviting him to attend the various functions and participate in them.

Some lodges have gatherings with wives of the brethren in attendance - such as summer picnics, barbecues and what have you - to keep the brethren communicating during the months of recess. Some very enjoyable times have been experienced this way.

Free Masonry is a fraternal organization rather than a benevolent association. However, there are many times when Masons can, and do, get together to benefit their community as a whole. Why should a group of Masons not get together to assist a masonic widow or relative get something done that she has been unable to do or get done. What about taking on the job of canvassing for some worthy cause as a group. There is fellowship in this type of giving and gives the new brother an opportunity to give something of himself in conjunction with his brothers - thereby communicating.

Competition between lodges in a district fosters good communication between the brethren. A curling bonspiel in the winter is a welcome opportunity to visit in a slightly less formal atmosphere and to enjoy the fellowship afterwards. Travelling brothers very often have quite presentable slides or the ability to describe their trips to make the 4th degree more pleasant.

In closing I must emphasize the quotation that appears on your notice card "For the good of Masonry - Visit". Get a carload together and visit your neighbouring lodge. Invite your neighbouring lodges to visit with you. Have a traveling gavel and keep it traveling. By doing all this you will be communicating masonically and - above all - be living Masonry.

THE DAYS OF MY SOJOURNING

by the Ven Cecil Swanson published by Glenbow-Alberta Institute, Calgary, 1977. \$7.95

The Days of My Sojourning by Venerable Archdeacon Cecil Swanson, known to the Craft in Alberta as Very Worshipful, Past Grand Chaplain and more intimately as "Swanny" has just arrived at the Grand Lodge Library. It is a book that should find wide circulation among the masons of Alberta.

Some time ago a group of Swanny's friends decided that he should record a number of his memories of his very rich life. A Committee of Calgarians

undertook to raise the money necessary for publication and the Glenbow-Alberta Institute agreed to publish the work. The Grand Lodge of Alberta A.F. & A.M. made a contribution as did many of his masonic brethren. The result is a work that is a delight to read. As the author says in the first of the book the days of his sojourning on this earth has been eighty-eight years, they have been full of great experiences and he likes it here.

The charming attribute of the book is that it is so simply and delightfully written. As one reads the pages it is as though Swanny was standing up at a Masonic Dinner to give one of his graces for which he has become famous. In other words it reflects that type of life that he has lived so graciously.

The book is important from an historical point of view. It carries one from the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria to the reign of Queen Elizabeth II and her visits to Canada with her husband the Duke of Edinburgh.

A number of his friends have often wondered why Archdeacon Swanson, one of the stalwarts of the Church of England in Canada never did become a Bishop. It now turns out that he was actually elected Bishop of Cariboo when he was at St. Paul's Church in Toronto. After much thought he decided that he would decline the appointment. The reason was that he felt he was no administrator. He says that he has never regretted that decision. A number of people who know him might disagree for certainly he would have been a kindly and understanding shepherd of his flock.

The story of Archdeacon Swanson runs from England, where he was born, to Toronto where he received his theological training, to the North Country and the Yukon. From the Yukon to Victoria, B.C. and some school teaching then back into the ministry. To Lethbridge, Calgary and Toronto went the itinerary with many other events in between. Now back to Calgary for what is called retirement.

One could write on and on about this book but it really is one to be read and enjoyed. The Bishop of Calgary, Rt. Rev. M.L. Goodman sums it all up in the foreword, "I commend this book to your reading. It is a homely tale, nonetheless it is the story of our times and the times before our times in terms of a man — humorous, kindly, affectionate and entirely devoted to the service of his fellows, in the name of Jesus".

OUR APOLOGIES

We are always grateful to receive articles for the Bulletin and believe that those who spend time to contribute, deserve our thanks and recognition. In the March Issue which went to press while the editor was enjoying the warmth of California we omitted the names of the contributors—

The Mason and His Family - W.Bro. C. W. Hutton
Brooks Lodge No. 73, PM Friendly Bros.
Lodge N0. 43 Iroquois G.L.C.

Sand - Pebbles - Rocks - Bro. J. Allen
Empire Lodge No. 63

CHARITY

A lodge notice from one lodge in our jurisdiction printed recently a definition of charity. This was the definition:

"Charity may be exemplified in various ways. Every good deed is charity. An exhortation of your fellow man to virtuous deeds is charity. Putting a wanderer on the right road is charity. Removing obstructions from the way is charity. A kind word, a smile, is charity."

We were impressed especially by the second sentence "Every good deed is charity."

This brings us face to face with the question of the Mason's contribution to Freemasonry be it the work he does in his own Lodge, in Grand Lodge or in some committee or board of which he is a member.

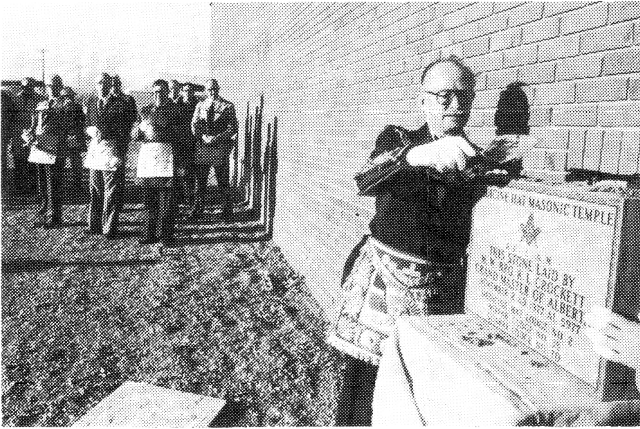
When, as Masons, we become somewhat depressed about the many problems that seem to haunt Lodges in this modern day, we should shake ourselves out of that mood and look at the positive aspect of the service being rendered, freely, to our order. Throughout our jurisdiction there are Masons whose hours of voluntary service to Freemasonry would be breathtaking. This we understand are the good deeds which may be counted in the definition of Charity.

It would be a good exercise to look in the Proceedings of our Grand Communication and count up the number of Masons who, voluntarily, act on a variety of Boards and Committees. When you have done that, find out how many meetings each group has each year. Then try to estimate the number of miles all the Board and Committee members travel in one year. Then translate that figure into the number of dollars that could be spent if all these Masons collected expense money. These are voluntary contributions of time and travel that cannot be deducted in an Income Tax return. In other words they are good deeds that come within the definition of Charity. We are not aware that any Mason would really want to change this system. Service on a Board or a Committee with all the sacrifice involved is one of the things that Masons do because of the desire to do them.

Go from the consideration of the work done for Grand Lodge and look at the service rendered by individuals to the constituent Lodge to which they happen to belong. Try to estimate the hours of work, the mileage travelled and then translate that into the dollar figure. Even the thought of it becomes staggering. No one really wants to change that. These are deeds of goodness and are the works of Charity.

There is considerable pessimism around today about Masonry. Members are prone to complain about a variety of things that have changed from thirty years ago. It is time to change the pessimism into optimism. Many unheralded brethren are working quietly, unselfishly and devotedly. On these does the future of our order rest.

When next someone asks of you if Masonry really is the charitable organization that we claim it is, make a list of the brethren you know who work and travel. Then you say, "Every good deed is charity". We have hundreds of brethren doing the good deed within our order. Indeed we are one of the most charitable organizations that we know.



The Grand Master Lays the Cornerstone of the Medicine Hat Masonic Temple.

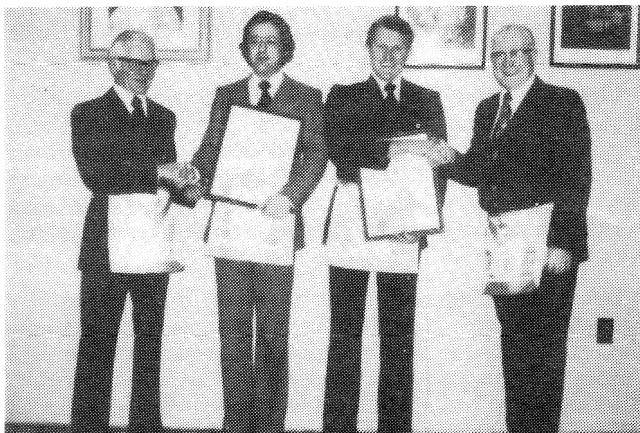
On September 26th, 1977, five Past Masters of St. Mark's Lodge No. 118, G.R.A., were presented with Life Membership Certificates by the M.W. The Grand Master, M.W. Bro. K.L. Crockett, on behalf of the Lodge. Life Membership Certificates were presented to R.W. Bro. Hugh Wigzell, W. Bro. Elvis Ross, Wor. Bro. Alec Boon and Wor. Bro. Herb Boon, Wor. Bro. Henry Ross was presented with an Honourary Life Membership Certificate. Absent was Wor. Bro. A. Houston, to whom Life Membership will be awarded in the near future.

These brethren were honoured for their service and contributions to St. Mark's Lodge and Freemasonry in general.



Left to right:
W. Bro. H. Boon, W. Bro. H. Ross, R.W. Bro. H. Wigzell, M.W. Bro. K.L. Crockett, W. Bro. D. Capper (W.M.) W. Bro. A. Boon, W. Bro. E. Ross.

An event of historical interest took place at the December meeting of Barrhead Lodge when the two newly raised Bros. Jack MacKenzie and Sid Gurevitch were presented with their certificates by two proud Fathers who each, with congratulations to the boys, made the presentations.



W. Bro. Dave MacKenzie and son Jack on the right, and Bro. Irvin Gurevitch and son Sid on the left of picture.

GLEE CLUB AND BAND

The Research and Education Committee of Districts No. 1, 6, and 18 is proposing to organize a Glee Club and Band. The purpose is to assist with Lodge Degrees and Festive Board Entertainment in the three districts. Any brother who plays an instrument or sings and is interested in this joint effort please contact - Gerry Davidson, #831 - 4020 - 37th Street S.W., Calgary or telephone 246-0528.

AVON GLEN LODGE #170 TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

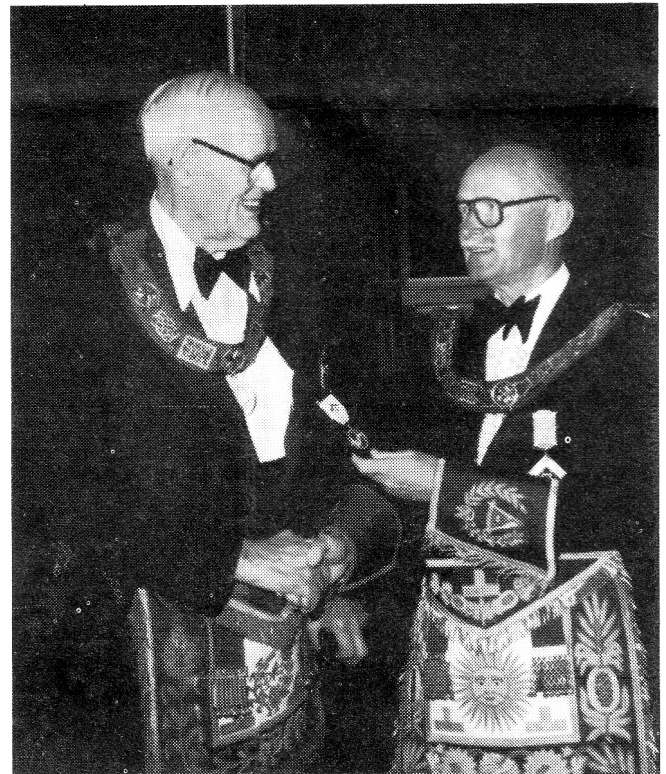
September 10th, 1977 was a very special day for the members of Avon Glen Lodge #170, Edmonton, Alberta. Our Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Ken Crockett, made one of his first official visits to his own lodge on the occasion of the celebration of their 25th Anniversary.

Following a rededication service conducted by V.W. Bro. Rev. Stan Noble, P.G.C. and Bro. Ken Hrychuk, chaplain of the lodge, M.W. Bro. Crockett presented R.W. Bro. G.P. Puffer with a 50 Year Past Master's Jewel. Bro. Puffer was Master of Fidelity Lodge #76, Bashaw, Alberta, in 1926.

The Grand Master also presented Hon. Life Membership in Avon Glen Lodge to M.W. Bro. W.A. Milligan, P.G.M.

W. Bro. H. Kinloch, W.M. of Avon Glen Lodge presented 25 year lapel pins to all charter members and to all other members present with 25 or more years in the craft.

The meeting was followed by a banquet and Ladies Night at Mayfair Golf & Country Club.



ADDRESSING ENVELOPES

We have a letter from Bro. Fuller, the Secretary of Rockyford Lodge, expressing the hope that brethren will take more care when sending mail. He says that members should know better than to put the name of a Lodge on an envelope. Mail should be addressed to the person to whom the letter is going. "Brethren" he says, "should know better than to put the Lodge name on the envelope."