



Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 45 NO. 5

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

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HAPPY 1980 THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

I would first like to express my appreciation to you M.W. Bro. Editor for the thought and privilege of allowing me to convey a New Years message to my brethren through the pages of the Bulletin. It's a little difficult to project one's thoughts from September to January, but all too soon 1980 will be here, and a brand new year to do with as we will.

Let us pause for a while and reflect on the dreams and aspirations of our brethren 75 years ago. It has been said, "We are the heirs of the past and the ancestors of the future." Let us, therefore, regard ourselves as heirs to a priceless heritage, delivered to us by those brethren who laid the foundation of our beloved craft in Alberta many years ago.

The Masonic year June 1980 to June 1981 has been established as the "75th Anniversary Year of Masonry in Alberta." It is now time for you to start planning your celebrations; so as to have as much involvement and participation as possible, this can be done at the lodge and or district level, with emphasis on "Thanksgiving and Rededication" to the basic principles of our Craft and keeping within the bounds of the dignity of its principles.

Only by a dedication to the application in our lives of the basic philosophy of Freemasonry, can we achieve satisfaction, and we all, in our daily conduct, should exemplify the beauties of Brotherhood and Tolerance. Let us, everyone, in this New Year demonstrate to the full, the glories of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Your Grand Lodge has a few occasions to be announced later, when final arrangements have been completed.

The year ahead is like a blank diary to be filled with the records of our activities and events, each day is a page where on we shall write not only what we do, but more important also what we are. Many pages will join one another to form chapters, for great and fine things are seldom achieved between sunrise and sunset of a single day. It takes many days to accomplish worthwhile projects. Only follies require but a moment, or an hour.

In our diary dedicated to the principles of our beloved craft may there be no need for erasures or blots to mar its shining pages.

May much joy be recorded therein, and the quiet contentment that comes from congenial work well done.

May the realization of things that have been dreamed of and prayed for, be engraven there in golden lettering.

May it memorialize in red and gold your contribution to the advancement of humanity.

May it chart your course forward and upward along paths of prosperity, spiritual progress and enduring peace.

May the Great A of the Universe prosper all our united endeavours, and may at the end find you a better individual, a better citizen, a friend, and a Mason. A Hearty, Sincere, and Very Happy New Year to You and Yours my Brethren.

Rt. Wor. Bro. W. E. (Curly) Foster
Deputy Grand Master

THE CHALLENGE FOR 1980

(M.W. Bro. Wm. N. Love, Grand Master)

With the Yuletide Holidays behind us the advent of the new year brings both bright promise and a worthy challenge.

For most Lodges in this jurisdiction January can be a time of excitement ... a slate of new officers ... new plans ... new objectives ... a launching of programs and reinforcing of those already underway.

It is well, however, that we take a look at the compass to make sure that all this new momentum is taking us in the right direction.

It would appear that W. Bro. Gerry Gibbs, of Gateway Lodge No. 164 in Edmonton, had similar thoughts when he inserted a message in his Lodge notice last January. His point is as valid today as it was then, and I feel I could do no better than quote his words (with the appropriate year change.)

"How strange it is that in a matter of passing days only, that wonderful spirit of giving and caring, togetherness and sharing, seems to wane with the advent of the New Year. How sad it is that the warmth and empathy towards our fellowman becomes dissipated with the turning of the calendar and the reality of winter closes in upon us.

Christmas time was so nice! There were so many things to do, and so many nice things to be done! And yet, here we are in January, really not bothering to look around for those nice things to be done ... We have not solved many things, my Brethren, we merely did them homage for a few short days when our hearts were warmer, and our good will towards those less fortunate than ourselves made us feel more comfortable.

Somehow, someway (and soon!), we Masons must tenaciously grasp and hold on tightly to that spirit of caring and giving all year long. Our Fraternal ties provide all of us with the right vehicle by which we may extend the spirit of Christmas ...

Here then, my Brethren, is the challenge of 1980!! Facing the realities (truth) of those we can be concerned about - all year. Doing some one thing to relieve the burdened among us (relief) each week! Being concerned about all, especially those Brethren and their families, so that our Masonic lives may be further enriched (daily) through the practice of brotherly love. Masonic enrichment for 1980 and beyond, begins with you, my Brother!!!"

What an excellent message to set the tone for the whole year!

Bro. Gibbs' words raised a question in my mind. Whatever happened to that old chestnut "The New Year's Resolution"? The new year was the occasion, traditionally, when the individual pledged himself to somehow become a better person.

It is, of course, a fun thing with most of us biting off more than we can chew. Yet, it can have practical value if we are thereby prompted to take a personal inventory of our characters. It helps to bring into renewed focus our principles, our ideals, our objectives and our daily habits. If nothing else, it reminds us that

a beginning must start somewhere and why not with the new year.

As Bro. Gibbs has reminded us, we ought to enrich our lives by making a daily advancement in Masonic principles and practice. We are taught to take the lessons of the Craft from the lodgeroom and carry them with us into the community in our daily lives; we are instructed that Masonry is a way of life, not something to concern us only on our meeting nights. Masonry can - and should - exert its wholesome influence each of the 365 days of the new year.

We could do worse than take a leaf from the old Boy Scout manual and pledge ourselves to try to do a "good Masonic deed" every day. There is more of merit in their motto than meets the eye, for it implies the giving of one's self. Certainly the boy scouts are in no position to give alms or financial help to anyone. Nor does charity demand a preoccupation with alms-giving ... the kind of giving associated with government hand-outs, fund-raising drives, or institutional charity. This role is fulfilled so well by so many other organizations. Masonry is concerned with individual charity ... the kind that is not so readily discharged by the writing of a cheque.

(Come to think of it, and using this "good deed" yardstick, how many of us could measure up to the Boy Scout standard? How many of us could qualify for membership in the Boy Scouts on this basis?)

What a wonderful thing it would be if each and every one of us resolved to practice our Masonry for the ensuing twelve months by consciously doing some "good Masonic deed" every day. If you don't know where to start just pay closer attention to our ritual for five minutes. The message is there.

Could we not aspire to leave our Lodge every night with some small extract or lesson that we seem to hear for the first time, and take it into the community; to go home with a quiet resolve to put it to work, to pledge ourselves to make the effort; to try it for a week ... then maybe a month ... and so on until it becomes a daily habit. Our "daily good deed" need be little more than a kind word or phrase to lift the spirits of someone in trouble; it could be manifest in a soft reply to a rude challenge; it could be a pat on the head and a word of fatherly advice to a youngster in difficulty; it could be a visit to a shut-in; a letter home; a display of understanding to an opponent; a measure of patience with an abrasive personality;... it could even take the form of learning to listen with tolerance to a bore. Whatever deed is performed, it should be a *conscious* effort. And it need not cost a penny.

For those less philosophically-minded there are other arguments in support of the principle of a "good Masonic deed every day".

If each and every Brother of the some 16,000 in this jurisdiction did his small part to advance the teachings and practice of Masonry, the cumulative results would be astounding. If we each did but one good deed a month, the result would be about 190,000 good deeds in this new year. And if our appetites were thereby whetted and we upped the ante to a

good deed a week, the influence of some 800,000 good deeds must surely be noticeable. And if we could somehow acquire the daily habit of advancing and practicing the tenets of Freemasonry, this Province would find it difficult to ignore the five or six million examples of individual Masonic Charity.

There isn't a bit of doubt in my mind that this would put to rest the need for further discussion of our alleged problems of membership, attendance, and community recognition. Think about it Brethren.

This is the light we have - for too long - been hiding under a bushel, not the highly-visible projects of a service-club nature and the promotional measures being urged upon us to improve the image of the Craft in society.

For in the long run, our actions speak so loudly, they can't hear what we say!

A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

From the Second Issue of the Grand Lodge Bulletin
January 1936

In welcoming the Year 1936 we extend the wish to all members in this Jurisdiction, that you will have a Happy New Year, and in your daily walk "communicate happiness to others." While 1935 has, for many folk, been an uphill climb and the going far from pleasant, the difficulties encountered have, in the main, been met courageously. There have been gleams of sunshine that have caused most people to admit that it might have been worse.

As we review the events of the past twelve months, particularly when seen against the background of the half dozen years that preceded them, our hearts rejoice over the very real betterment of conditions, and we are looking to a speedy return to normal prosperity. With this statement we do not mean a return to the flush and balmy days of the early twenties; those days will not return except in the face of some national or world crisis - may Heaven forbid that. The lessons of adversity we are being taught are painful but they are thorough.

The year commences brightly and the officers are installed. No lodge is going to be bigger than the man at the head of it. The reason that some lodges are progressive is because the Master is full of energy with a desire to do something; while the Master in other lodges is simply marking time until his year of office shall close. I trust that the year will be full of opportunities for service to each member.

"Join hands then, Brothers of the Faith, whate'er your race may be -

Who serves my Father as a son, is surely kin to me."

Melvin M. Downey - Grand Master

CYPRUS LODGE NO. 113

Cyprus Lodge No. 113, Three Hills, celebrated its Sixtieth Anniversary in November. A very special meeting was attended by the M.W. the Grand Master, M.W. Bro. W. N. Love and he was accompanied by

a large number of Grand Lodge Officers. Many Lodges surrounding the Three Hills district sent delegations to add their congratulations on the sixty years of the Lodge's history. Life memberships were presented to R.W. Bro. W. F. G. Bannister, W. Bro. R. L. Dau, W. Bro. F. McLaren, R.W. Bro. A. B. Young and Bro. Glen Jones. The Worshipful Master, W. Bro. R. Robertson sent this message to his brethren,

"It's when you feel you can't keep on,
You to yourself should say
There is no care too big for prayer,
No load which day by day
With God I cannot share,
No fear of which he's unaware.

VULCAN LODGE NO. 74

Vulcan Lodge No. 74 enjoyed its annual Wild Game Dinner in November. The guest speaker for this annual event was the Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. W. E. Foster. Following the supper the regular Lodge meeting was held.



BROOKS LODGE NO. 73

W. Bro. George Ingram Burke received a sixty year bar to his Fifty Year Jewel at a recent meeting of Brooks Lodge No. 73. The presentation was made by W. Bro. R. D. Smith, W. M. of Brooks Lodge. Bro. Burke was initiated into Nanton Lodge No. 17 in October 1917 and served as Worshipful Master of that Lodge in 1928. In 1945 he affiliated with Brooks Lodge and has been the secretary for ten years. Hearty congratulations were given to him by his brethren.

EDMONTON LODGE NO. 7

Bro. Trevor Hughes, Secretary of Edmonton Lodge No. 7, is holding a contest among the Brethren of Edmonton No. 7 to see who can come up with the best paper based upon a Masonic Theme. Any subject may be chosen as long as it is for the good of Masonry.

The writer of the best paper will have \$50.00 paid towards his dues, if the winners dues are less than \$50.00 the difference will be paid on his behalf to the Masonic High Education Bursary Fund.

Deadline for contributions is January 31, 1980.

JASPER PARK LODGE NO. 143

The Worshipful Master of Jasper Park Lodge No. 143 accompanied by W. Bro. E. Merrill and Bro. W. Block recently visited Bro. H. Kensit at his home. The purpose of the visit was to present a Fifty Year Jewel to Bro. Kensit. A very pleasant evening was enjoyed.

THE LODGE OF RESEARCH

As has been mentioned in the Bulletin from time to time a group of Masons are planning to petition the Grand Master to institute a Lodge of Research in the Anniversary Year. The necessary constitutional changes were approved at the last Grand Lodge Communication. The name that has been chosen is FIAT LUX a Latin expression which means "Let there be Light". A petition for institution will be forwarded to the Grand Master containing the names of twenty five charter members widely representing the craft in Alberta.



On the evening of Tuesday, June 26th, 1979, at an emergent meeting of Crescent Lodge No. 87, R.W. Bro. F. S. Bird and W. Bro. C. E. Bloom were presented with their 50 year jewels. R.W. Bro. Bird was presented with his jewel by his son, W. Bro. F. T. Bird, while W. Bro. Bloom received his jewel from W. Bro. D. A. Bruce, a long time family friend,

Both brothers have continued very active membership in the lodge. The success of Crescent Lodge is due in part to the significant contributions that have been made by R.W. Bro. Bird and W. Bro. Bloom.

WHITECOURT LODGE NO. 153

Whitecourt Lodge No. 153 celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary in November. To mark the occasion the Lodge held a banquet and a dance in the Canadian Legion Hall at Whitecourt.

A man's interest in Masonry is in direct ratio to what he knows of Masonry. You cannot expect a man to be interested in something of which he knows nothing. It takes reading and studying to become a thorough Mason. Of course, taking the degrees gives a man a good start, but he must follow it up by learning its history, its traditions, legends and symbols. If he does not, his passion for Masonry wanes and he is lost in the forest of ignorance.

EUREKA LODGE NO. 10



V.W. Bro. John Parsons presents a Fifty Year Jewel to W. Bro. B. W. Harrington at a meeting of Eureka Lodge No. 10.

Two brethren of Eureka Lodge No. 10 recently received their Fifty Year Jewels. Bro. Ellis Riley was initiated into Eureka Lodge on March 20, 1929 and was raised in June of that year. He is now retired and is enjoying extensive travels.

Bro. Beverly W. Harrington was also honored. He was initiated in October 1929 and raised in December of that year. Bro. Harrington worked at the Lacombe Research Station from 1924 until his retirement in 1970. He is a member of a number of concordant bodies and remains very active in masonry.



Members of the Sentinel Lodge No. 26, AF & AM, gathered in Bellevue to pay tribute to 87-year-old Ernie Fisher, centre. Bro. Fisher received his 60-year bar. He is the oldest member of Sentinel Lodge. The bar was presented to him by his grandson, Bro. Ken Fisher, who is the newest member of the Sentinel Lodge. Ten years ago Mr. Fisher Senior was presented with his 50-year-jewel by his son, Jim Fisher. Above, left to right, Joe Pozzi, secretary-treasurer; Mervin Shafer, Mr. Fisher's son-in-law; Ernie Fisher; Ken Fisher; Darrel Clark, immediate past master; and Don Pagnucco, lodge Master. Incidentally, Ernie, at 87 is the last remaining veteran of World War One who signed up for the army in Bellevue.

MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP

May 2, 3 & 4, 1980
REGISTRATION CARDS SHOULD BE SENT NOW.