



Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 47, NO. 2

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

OCTOBER, 1981

DARE TO STAND ALONE

(At the last Communication of Grand Lodge it was indicated that The Grand Lodges of Canada were planning to meet annually. It has been interesting to look back through a few copies of the proceedings of the Biennial Conferences and to note the high quality of the papers given at these meetings. At the dinner of the Eighth Biennial Meeting held in Winnipeg, R.W.Bro., the Venerable Archdeacon F.J. Boyd, then Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba gave the address. Printed below are portions of that address.)

When I was a very young person, I went to Sunday School, I couldn't help it, my father and mother, sent me there and one of the hymns we sang in this Sunday School that I was very, very fond of and I still remember was,

“Dare to be a Daniel,
Dare to stand alone,
Dare to have a purpose firm,
And dare to make it known.”

You know what happened to Daniel for daring to stand alone. He ended up in the lion's den. We used to rejoice in the way the story ended. It ended as it should. The good guy was eventually rescued and the bad guys were devoured by the lions. A lot of kids today don't know the story of Daniel. They don't know that there is a bit of a problem when a person decides to stand alone.

You don't get much of a chance to stand alone these days. It starts right at school when nobody must be first and nobody must be last. Everybody is in a group and everybody moves along at the same mediocre pace. We receive a bonus from the government for having children. We have benevolent school boards who will feed them hot lunches and who will look after their transportation. The workman, who used to be the most individualistic of people is now governed by a union. The government gets into the act to give people all the things they are supposed to need.

Do you read the obituaries in the papers? You read that the person was a member of such and such lodge, a member of certain clubs and then, last of all he may be a member of a church. Likely he has not done one thing by himself except in association with others. So few dare to stand alone.

The great contributions to human progress have not been made by groups of people but by individuals.

In 325 A.D. a council of the whole church met at Nicea. Four fifths of the clergy and laymen leaned to a very heretical view of church doctrine. One man, a very lowly deacon by the name of Athanasius, stood up and by himself saved the church from all sorts of chaos.

In the 16th century, a monk of Wittenburg, who was convinced of the terrible state of the church, all by himself, nailed 95 theses to a castle door. The result of this individual action was the Protestant Reformation.

We live in a very scientific civilization and yet we don't stop to think that most of the things we enjoy and the comforts that are ours are not the result of a group of people doing anything about it. The great discoveries in science were made by individuals. Isaac Newton, alone, is responsible for the discovery of certain laws of nature. The Janssens discovered the microscope. Where would our world be without atomic force and nuclear fission? Einstein was a man of outstanding genius who looked a little like a tramp. He alone propounded these great theories. I could go on and talk about individuals like Watts and Stevenson and Marconi and Crosley.

The great things that we enjoy in music and literature and the arts were certainly not produced by classes but by individual men. Rembrandt, Shakespeare, Milton, T.S. Elliott and many others dared to stand alone.

Masonry is certainly one of the influences that encourages a man to dare to stand alone to influence the good life in a community and the church, I think, even more so. You find in Masonry as in the church a powerful source of brotherhood. We meet friends, we feel the power of a fraternity and that strength gives us the inspiration to stand on our two legs to do individually those things that we know are right. Therefore let us remember the old hymn, let us dare to have a purpose firm, let us dare to make that purpose known when we go about our daily tasks. Let us dare to stand alone. If masons do this then there is no doubt that we shall be Daniels in our own right and the great principles of Freemasonry will have a great influence on the life of our day. So dare to be a Daniel, dare to stand alone in a pagan world.

THE LETTER "G" — SQUARE AND COMPASS

There is one symbol that stands out above all others. Even a stranger entering a Masonic Lodge Room, must be struck by a mysterious letter that hangs over the chair of the Master in the East. No one needs to tell him its meaning, it is a letter of "light" and tells its own story. Yet no stranger can know its full "Importance," much less know how old it is. Indeed few Masons are aware of all that it implies, either as a symbol or history. There it shines, the emblem of "Divine Presence" in the Lodge, and in the heart of each Brother composing it. When the Lodge is opened, the mind and heart of each member should also be opened to the meaning of the Great Symbol. To the intent that its "light" and "truth" may become the Supreme reality in our lives. When the Lodge is closed the memory of that divine initial should be retained in our minds.

The Holy Bible lies open on the altar of Masonry and upon the Bible lies the Square and Compass.

These are the three great lights of the Lodge.

These are our Symbols of "Revelation", "Righteousness", and "Redemption", teaching us that by walking in the "Light of Truth", and obeying the "Law of Right", the Divine in man wins victory over the earthly. The Square and Compass are the oldest, the simplest and the most universal symbols of Masonry. All the world over used as a sign on a building or a badge, worn by a Brother, even the profane know them to be emblems of our Ancient Craft. In fact and truth, the Square rules a Mason as well as the Lodge in which he labours. As soon as a candidate enters the Lodge, he walks with Square Steps, around the Square Pavement, of a rectangular Lodge. During all the ceremonies, the same symbol appears, as if to fashion his life after its form. When the candidate is brought to light he beholds the Square upon the altar and at the same time sees that its worn by the Master of the Lodge.

With every act of the ritual writes this lesson in our hearts and if we forget this truth, the lost word will remain forever lost, though we journey to the ends of the earth in search of it.

Bro. King Griswold
Eureka Lodge No. 10
Lacombe, Alberta

A HOLIDAY IN HAWAII

The Deputy Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Stanley Harbin is planning to visit Hawaii in January of 1983. Arrangements are being made for the masons who accompany him to visit a Lodge in Hawaii. He invites masons, their families and friends to accompany him.

Further information may be obtained from Mr. Laurie Page, University Heights Travel, 44 Stadium Shopping Centre, 1901 Uxbridge Drive, N.W., Calgary T2N 2V2. Telephone 403 282-9118. A deposit of \$150.00 per person may be mailed to that address. It is non-refundable after prices are announced.

"UNITY THROUGH BROTHERHOOD"

The theme of M.W.Bro. M.N. MacIver, Grand Master "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity"

Psalm 133, verse 1

A husbandman who had a quarrelsome family, after having tried in vain to reconcile them by words, thought he might more readily prevail by an example. So he called his sons and bade them to lay a bundle of sticks before him. Then having tied them into a fagot, he told the lads, one after another, to take it up and break it. They all tried, but tried in vain. Then, untying the fagot, he gave them the sticks to break one by one. This they did with the greatest of ease. Then said the father: "Thus my sons, as long as you remain united, you are a match for all your enemies; but differ and separate; and you are undone." Aesop

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The appeal of the Grand Lodge Bulletin to the brethren in Alberta comes from the cooperation that the editor receives from the readers of the Bulletin. It is local news and pictures that are most interesting. The readers appreciate, also, reading articles and papers that their brethren in Alberta write. It would be a simple job to copy material from other publications but this would in no way reflect the thinking of our own membership. We are often told by individuals that they don't write well enough to have something printed. This is not so. A person that sets down on paper some of his sincere thoughts makes a contribution to the thinking of others and it does not have to be perfect prose. The Bulletin is constantly in need of material. Please send your writings to the Bulletin care of the Grand Lodge Office and we will be delighted to reproduce it.

SHERWOOD LODGE NO. 183

Last May Sherwood Lodge No. 183 held its first Charter Member's Night. Sixty per cent of the Charter members were in attendance. R.W.Bro. Paul Thomas spoke on the history of the Lodge from its inception down to the present. W.Bro. E. Yonkers of Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92 showed a film on the opening of the Grand Lodge Temple in Australia. Bro. I. MacDonald of Dominion Lodge No. 117 took pictures which will be presented to the charter members. The Sherwood Lodge Medallion was presented to all the charter members by W.Bro. D. Grout. Also honoured were the Secretaries of the Lodge and those who were celebrating twenty five years in the craft.

BUFFALO PARK LODGE NO. 44

Buffalo Park Lodge No. 44 in Wainwright is considering a proposal to invest \$50,000.00 towards the erection of a Club House for the Wainwright Golf and Country Club. The building will have in it a self contained Masonic Lodge Hall and will have access to all the facilities of the Golf Club House.

WHAT MASONRY MEANS TO ME

(Two more letters written by candidates initiated in our 75th Anniversary year).

First of all let me say what an honour it is to share my feelings with you. I hope this is the beginning of 75 years of fellowship, learning a closer relationship to God and growth of character with Freemasonry as a part of it.

Since my initiation in September into Masonry I have become more aware of how many really good people there are. The actions of the other members has a tremendous effect on me and the first thing that comes to mind is that they are acting as Masons and not as Catholics or Jews or what have you. I expect more of them and I have a better understanding of them. Most Masons, I find, are men "closer to their feelings" which is an admirable trait of personality.

The Lodge has welcomed me with open arms and could not have made me feel more welcome. Truly it exemplifies brotherly love, relief and truth. I'm sure that all other lodges have extended the same warm feeling in the past to new faces in the Lodge, as well I have seen it when visitors come amongst us. It has left quite an impression with me to see this.

I am the first of the fourth generation in my family to become interested in Freemasonry and I know what the Lodge means to my forefathers.

It is hard in today's society to live a Christian Life. I admit that I have not been too active in my church but nevertheless it is quite important to me. Masonry is a companion to share these feelings. It is a good feeling to know the Lodge is always there to rely on. It is a true friend.

C. Raymond Beran defines a friend, "Your soul can be naked with him. When you are with him you know how a prisoner feels who has just been declared innocent. You do not have to be on your guard. With him you can breathe freely. He understands. You can abuse him, neglect him, tolerate him. Best of all you can keep still with him. He likes you. He understands. You can weep with him, laugh with him, pray with him. Through it all and underneath he sees, knows and loves you."

Perhaps the best part of the Lodge is the thought that it is a pillar and will forever support you and be there to lend a hand or support of any kind. It supplies a true sense of security.

So most of all, to me, Masonry means an unequivocal friend; wise, devoted and understanding. I pray I will not take him for granted.

Sid Holt,
Fidelity Lodge No. 7,
Bashaw. May 15, 1981

What masonry means to me at present is in essence a summary of my perception of the period of initiation.

My interest in becoming a Mason stemmed from an observation of the positive changes in a life long friend since he became a Mason and an impression of a fine group of people from attendance at Lodge Social Events.

My pre-conceived views were that Masons were overly secretive and liked to dress up. As an Entered Apprentice, I felt they also were overly concerned with ritual and role playing. I was, however, impressed with the forceful impression of values that made it clear that a Mason must adhere to a high standard of moral and social conduct.

As I progressed in my knowledge, the teachings began to become clear and I found an increasing application in my day to day life. The kind gentle atmosphere of the Lodge and my brethren made my changes in values and feelings a natural process.

Now as a Master Mason, I realize that a strict application of Masonic values and tenets will most certainly result in a better quality of life for me and my family and those I come in contact with. These are my wages as a Master Mason.

F.C. Underhill
April 21, 1981

THE MAIL BAG

R.W.Bro. Roy Martins, P.D.D.G.M., the Secretary-Treasurer of the Central Bureau in Edmonton writes that the Central Bureau held its annual meeting in April. The Central Bureau issues a circular each month listing the initiations, affiliations, suspensions for N.P.D. and restorations which have or are about to occur in the Lodges concerned. Special announcements are included for the benefit of the Lodges. At the annual meeting it was suggested that the circular include a "Port of Missing Men" section in an attempt to locate members who, for one reason or another, became lost. This suggestion was adopted. It was then suggested that a similar department be initiated in the Grand Lodge Bulletin so that the information regarding the missing brethren might have a wider circulation. The Bureau wished to know the reaction of the editor of the Bulletin.

The editor thinks that this is a very worthwhile idea. The Masonic Relief Association does a similar thing in its circular. Edmonton now will have such a section. It seems that here is a service that the Grand Lodge Bulletin could initiate. We thank the Central Bureau and R.W.Bro. Martins for the proposal.

Should secretaries of Lodges throughout the jurisdiction have a list of members for whom there is no current address all they need to do is to send the list to the Grand Lodge Bulletin care of the Grand Lodge Office and the list will be published. This will require widespread cooperation if it is to be a success. Secretaries should remember that the deadline for material for the Grand Lodge Bulletin is six weeks ahead of the date of publication so the material must reach the Grand Lodge office no later than the fifteenth of any month.

R.W.Bro. Martins' letter arrived too late for the June issue and consequently had to be delayed until this issue. If the Lodge Secretaries cooperate the Editor of the Bulletin will make every effort to keep the list current.

RED DEER LODGE NO. 12

Red Deer Lodge No. 12 has had a very active year, and has been rewarded in its 1980-81 term with the presence of the then Grand Master of Alberta M.W.Bro. Walter E. Foster, accompanied by some of his Grand Lodge Officers. On the Grand Master's first visit he presented a Life Membership to W.Bro. W.T. Phillips at his home, a Life Membership and a 50 year jewel to W.Bro. J.T. Lane, and an I.P.M. certificate to W.Bro. E.W. Murphy. The Grand Master's second visit was for Art Phillips night, in which R.W.Bro. Art Phillips and as many as possible of his officers of 1956 took chairs in the Lodge.

The Grand Master was present at the joint installation with Beacon No. 190 of Red Deer, at the regular meeting of Red Deer Lodge No. 12 on June 9, 1981.



M.W.Bro. W.E. Foster standing with R.W.Bro. Art Phillips at Art Phillips night. Two long time friends and brothers.



M.W.Bro. W.E. Foster and R.W.Bro. Art Phillips presenting Life Membership to W.Bro. W.T. Phillips at his home.



M.W.Bro. W.E. Foster presenting Immediate Past Master's certificate to W.Bro. Ed Murphy.



M.W.Bro. W.E. Foster presenting Life Membership and 50 year jewel to W.Bro. J.T. Lane.



This is a first for Provost Lodge No. 61 at the Installation of Officers. R.W.Bro. Tom Hanken installed his son Donald in the East as Master of Provost Lodge for the coming year.

FIFTY YEAR JEWELS

- Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92 — Bro. R. Dickey.
- Temple Lodge No. 167 — M.W.Bro. E.J. Thompson, R.W.Bro. D.B. Young.
- Granite Lodge No. 127 — Bro. John Grant.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

- North Star Lodge No. 4 — R.W. Bro. G.W. Smith.
Bro. J.P. Crabb.
- Kelvin Grove Lodge No. 187 — Bro. S.R. Bell,
V.W.Bro. S.G. Blaylock, Bro. P.R. Bumanis,
M.W.Bro. R.L. Costigan, W.Bro. R.F. Dallin,
V.W.Bro. L.E. Thomas, V.W.Bro. E.G. Tyson.
- Eureka Lodge No. 10 — W.Bro. A.R. Patrick.