



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 47, NO. 10

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

JUNE, 1982

Dear Worshipful Master,

I went to Lodge last night. It was the first time I had been for over a year and I hadn't attended any of the social functions either. To go was a little more difficult than I had expected for people do get into patterns of behaviour that are hard to break. In addition I was a little embarrassed and thought that some of the men might make pointed remarks about my prolonged absence. All of my hesitation turned out to be quite wrong. No one remarked that I hadn't been around for quite awhile and I almost wondered if anyone had missed me. Of course it wasn't that at all. Any thoughts like that were of my own creation. Many fellows I hadn't seen for ages shook my hand with genuine cordiality. I was soon walking to my usual place feeling as though I had been attending quite regularly.

The reason I stopped going to Lodge, I had persuaded myself, was that the opening and closing ceremonies and the ritual was repetitious and boring. For my part I could see no logical reason for climbing up through three degrees and then going all the way down again especially when the procedure was lengthened by stumbling over words and confused prompting. I must confess that the opening and closing did not give me a great thrill and I continue to wonder why we have to do it. Anyhow it was made less painful by the way your officers carried out their parts with dignity and it was very evident that they had spent many hours getting the ritual in shape. I guess when it is done that way one is able to forget the length.

What really got me, though, was the degree work. I don't need to tell you it was the third degree because you did most of the work yourself and did it very well. The way in which the other officers and those who took part performed showed that you had spent a lot of time getting ready. Of course the whole evening had the tone set when the candidate was so well prepared. I wish I had been that confident and ready when I took the degree many years ago now. With such a start I can't imagine any officer bungling his lines and yours didn't. The candidate must have been very impressed.

Well I got over being embarrassed about my long absence, I wasn't too put off by the opening so then when we arrived at the degree itself I was quite relaxed and ready to listen to the degree. It just occurs to me that, maybe, the oldtimers who wrote the ritual instinctively realized that you need some preliminaries in order to prepare you for the climax of the evening. Anyhow I was relaxed and I wasn't on pins and needles for fear somebody would ball things up. So I just listened to those old words that were so well said. The English is excellent isn't it? What a relief after a lot of the trash we have around today. Behind the English there are some real meanings and eternal truths. I was able to let them just roll over me and I really felt refreshed. In fact I hummed to myself some hymns I hadn't thought of for years as I drove home.

Thank you for a great evening. I have an idea that it won't be very long before you see me back again in the place where I usually sit.

All the best,  
(Name of brother and of Lodge withheld on request)

# TAKE CARE OF YOUR SPEAKERS

by Otis V. Jones, Jr., MPS

from The Philaetles — February, 1982

After years of handling the visiting speakers for my professional associations and other organizations, I have become aware of the way Masonic speakers are being located, invited and handled — or mishandled when they accept our invitations to serve as a speaker, or a portion of a program.

I have been surprised and exasperated, even left wondering how Masonry was done as well as it usually does with speakers and distinguished guests. It is surprising how little is done even when the visitor or guest speaker is a Grand Lodge Officer and the procedures are outlined in the official codes. Only a few can meet him in person or even speak to him for he is generally surrounded by friends who take up most all his time.

I believe we can do a better job. Drawing on the many articles that have been published on this subject and my years of experience, I shall try to cover most of the really important things that should be done. I hope eventually I can write a short manual on the subject.

Courtesy and preparations are the key requirements for a smooth and polished program. Perhaps a brief schedule should be inserted here. This will be limited to speakers. Any portion of this can be used to great advantage:

- 1 Plan the program and its theme as far in advance as you can.
- 2 Know exactly the kind of speech and speaker you should have.
- 3 Select the right man or group for the program agreed on previously.
- 4 The invitation to the speaker.
- 5 The arrangements to be made for the speaker, especially if he is from out of town, i.e., "The care and feeding" of the selected speaker while with you.
- 6 The introduction of the speaker . . . Most important.
- 7 Time and limits of the presentation of the speaker.
- 8 Plan for the speaker to be thanked at the end of his speech.
- 9 Plan for the speaker after the meeting.
- 10 Letter of thanks and appreciation to the speaker.

These preparations cannot always guarantee you a great program, or presentation, but they will guarantee you a relaxed speaker, who, while enjoying himself, will do a better job with his assigned program, both for himself and the craft.

Treat every speaker as a celebrity, each of them will enjoy this and appreciate it. It is, of course, an ego builder and all speakers have a bit of ego or else they would never appear on a stage before a group, large or small; especially when compensation is not a factor. This is especially true for a Masonic meeting. Perhaps many of those present in the audience may be better informed on a particular bit of history, ritual, or landmarks than the speaker himself. Treating the speaker as a celebrity will be of great help to your program.

It costs so little to pamper him, to make him feel at ease and to let him know that you really wanted him to be your speaker.

The *first* thing that *must* be handled is the invitation to the person you have selected to be your speaker. This is important in Freemasonry since speakers come of their own free will and accord, expecting no material compensation.

We get the best for so little within our craft. Make the invitation warm and gracious. Make it *important*. Write it with care and good taste. Be careful and courteous. Be sure that you know as much about the speaker as you can and cater to his needs and tastes in the invitation. You must make it as special for him as it is for you. You must advise him of the type of meeting you plan. Explain to him the type of talk you expect. Advise him if the meeting will be tyled or open.

Let him know if the ladies will be present, if the program is a serious one or a "fun" meeting. Be sure he is advised of the time, whether it be a dinner or a luncheon meeting and *please* do not overlook letting him know for sure the dress for the occasion. Be sure that he is aware of the expected length of his presentation.

Of all the things that you should cover in your invitation or in a subsequent letter, nothing can be more important than: 1 . . . Subject of program; 2 . . . Time and place of the program; 3 . . . Manner of dress and 4 . . . Length of the program, both his portion and the total time.

Another caution to be observed is to extend the invitation to your selected speaker as far in advance as you can. No matter how hard a man may try, he cannot be in but one place at a time. Good speakers often have their schedules filled months in advance. Get his acceptance as soon as you can so your plans may be worked out in comfort and proper form and not rushed.

Take care of your speaker. If he is from out of town you should provide him with a place to rest, compose himself, work up the local connections to be mentioned in his presentation and to dress. Meet him at the airport if necessary. If he is driving or will arrive at an odd time, be sure to pre-register him at a nearby hotel or motel and see that his room is paid for in advance. This lack of "Hassle" will delight him and cost you no more. If the speaker arrives early, do not force him to meet with special groups — unless he likes this sort of thing and suggests it himself. He may have personal friends or business to take care of. Leave this scheduling to him.

He may want to see and to talk to key people and or representatives of the Lodge or other group to whom he will speak. Make your chairman or Master available. I have found through experience that the best time for the last minute items to be handled are at breakfast, or lunch, or even over coffee. Some speakers, because of long experience or tight schedules, do not care for this type of meeting. If so, abide by his wishes.

Anyone coming from any distance to speak should be furnished with a comfortable place to rest and his gasoline expense be paid. His time and the preparation work, we can never hope to repay. He will not expect it.

At the meeting place, before the dinner or speech, I like to escort the speaker around before his appearance on the program, so that he may meet a portion of the audience. He will know many of those present and will enjoy renewing friendships and meeting the new people who are so anxious to meet him. This is even more important if the speaker comes from a distance and knows only a few members present. It will give him a "feel" of the audience and will be of assistance to him in his talk. He can tailor his speech to fit.

Even though the speaker may have brought along some special effects he may use in his talk, be sure to have someone check this in case he may need help. Also be sure to check the microphones and the amplification system. See that his lectern is well lighted. If possible let him speak from a stage or an elevated east so the audience may see and hear him better. Check on *everything* that might go wrong. "Murphy's Law" tells us that if anything can go wrong it will. Believe me there is no good time for things to go wrong.

Accommodate the speaker in any way you can. I had one internationally known speaker ask that the "house" lights be raised so that he could see "The lights in their eyes." He wanted to watch the audience.

Try to give the speaker the spotlight on the program. Do not hold him to the last of a long program. The audience loses its "zest" for anything or anyone if the program runs long as it often does in Masonic meetings. There are times when even the Grand Master would like to speak early and close up shop in order to ease a long drive home.

Take all the pictures you want of the man in action. I believe 100% of them like to receive copies of your pictures. Be sure to send him any of your own and clippings with date and time that any publication mentions the evening or the speaker's talk. This is good public relations and appreciated.

Masonic meetings can be bona fide news, but few lodges seek publicity or ever like it and generally do not make any news material available to the papers. Your program and your speaker may be worthy news and will certainly be a good way to carry our message to the public. We need to regain our place in the sun that the Masonic Fraternity of our Father's and Grandfather's day enjoyed and earned.

Pictures yes, but taping NO, unless you clear this with the speaker beforehand. Taping may prevent the speaker from being as candid as perhaps he might want to be. It may be tyled material, or even copyrighted. At any rate the speech is private property and the speaker should be consulted before taping. Ask permission.

Discussion periods are fine, especially after they get started, so be sure to have scheduled along with a discussion period some of your members to ask the key questions. The audience will generally follow the lead and this portion of the program often is more enjoyable and profitable than a program without questions.

As the speaker finishes up his portion of the program and turns it back to the Master, or the Master of Ceremonies, present the speaker with a small token of your appreciation along with your spoken thanks. If your budget allows it a small memento, a small plaque or any suitable gift will be appropriate, even flowers for his wife if she is along, or a box of candy to take back to her.

Tell him thanks in your own best way . . .

Earlier we spoke about getting the speaker to the meeting. It is equally as important to oversee his leaving. If he has eaten little, see that you go along to a nice quiet place for a late dinner or snack if he prefers it. Let him relax before turning in or driving home. This is most important for Masonic speakers for they work for the love of the craft, but work is work. Make his visit pleasant to him.

Last, and MOST IMPORTANT, write him a letter of thanks and appreciation. Thank him for the presentation and impression he made on your Lodge or other group or rite. Make it sincere and gracious and you will have made a friend you may need again in the future.

## A ROYAL MASON

When Albert Edward (later King Edward VII) was Prince of Wales he wanted to be initiated into Freemasonry. For some reason, that is not quite clear, Queen Victoria did not look with favour on this plan. In December 1868 the Prince of Wales paid a visit to Sweden. At that time King Charles XV of Sweden was the Presiding Officer of the Masonic Order and Crown Prince Oscar of Sweden was a Warden of his Masonic Lodge. They learned of Edward's frustrated wish and so decided to initiate, pass and raise him while he was visiting Sweden. This happened in December 1868.

The Royal Initiation was never announced in England but rumours started to circulate. The problem was what to do to ascertain that the Prince of Wales was really a Mason. It was the Earl of Zetland who came up with a solution. He invited a number of members of the House of Lords to meet with him and the Prince of Wales in a small room in the House of Lords. These well versed masons then put the Prince through an examination and satisfied themselves that he had truly received the three degrees. All of this happened on May 31, 1869.

The Earl of Zetland then gave notice to the United Grand Lodge of England that he intended to move that the Prince of Wales be elected an Honorary Past Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge. In the meantime the whole storey had found its way to Scotland and the Grand Lodge of Scotland was delighted to be able to get in ahead of their English Brethren and the Prince of Wales was elected the Grand Patron of the Grand Lodge of Scotland before the United Grand Lodge could act. However, in 1874, Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, was elected the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England and he held that office with distinction until he ascended to the throne as King Edward VII in 1901. At that point he resigned his position in the Grand Lodge.

There is no indication what Queen Victoria thought of all this. It is known, that despite her reservations about Edward becoming a Mason, she was a firm supporter of the Craft and the members of the Craft in England were among her most loyal and admiring subjects.

## A HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Last fall a number of people from Calgary made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Greece. Among them were W.Bro. J. Taylor (83) and W.Bro. H. Hansen (184). They had a wonderful time and were delighted to explore some of the sacred places of the world and to see where Solomon's Temple once stood. When the group returned they got hold of the Editor of the Bulletin and persuaded him that he should host a tour. It has now come about that such a tour of the Holy Land and Greece is going to take place November 4 to 19, 1982, with the editor as host.

This is definitely not a tour arranged under Masonic auspices but it will be a group that wants to see some of these places that we hear about constantly. If anyone out there is interested and would like more information write M.W. Bro. Collett at 824 Imperial Way S.W., Calgary, T2S 1N7 or telephone 243-2997 or 255-3343 and ask for more details.

## VISIT HAWAII

Masons of Alberta and their friends may enjoy a visit to Hawaii commencing on January 12, 1983.

The cost is \$1,050.00 (Canadian Funds) and includes:

1. A return flight with Wardair.
2. 13 nights in the Princess Kaiulani Hotel.
3. Lei greeting upon arrival.
4. Transfers to and from the hotel.
5. Baggage handling.
6. Welcome breakfast.
7. Al Herrington Dinner Show.
8. Sightseeing tour of Honolulu.

Arrangements may be made to visit another Island or for a longer stay than two weeks. **HOWEVER THIS MUST MUST BE IN WRITING WITH YOUR APPLICATION AND DEPOSIT.** For members of the Craft a Lodge meeting is being arranged for Friday, January 14, 1983.

Mail your deposit of \$150.00 per person to University Heights Travel, Masons Group, 1901 Uxbridge Drive N.W., 4A Stadium Shopping Centre, Calgary, Alberta T2N 2W2. Enquire about Baggage and Medical Insurance.

Costs are subject to change and are based on the current rate of exchange.

## POLICY CHANGE

Because of increasing costs the Finance Committee of Grand Lodge has decided to reduce the mailing lists of the Grand Lodge Bulletin. From now on the complimentary lists will be cancelled and the Grand Lodge Representative List will be cancelled. Any brethren outside the Jurisdiction of Alberta who wishes to read the Grand Lodge Bulletin will be able to by getting a copy from the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge Jurisdiction of which he is a member.

## VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are being received to fill the office of Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Alberta and forms for this purpose are available at the Grand Lodge Office. The successful applicant will work on a probationary basis as Assistant to the Grand Secretary for 16 months. Applicants must be Past Masters. Applications will be received until September 30, 1982.



W.Bro. A. Dave Wright was presented with a fifty year jewel by a longtime friend, W.Bro. J.P. Talbot. W.Bro. Talbot served under W.Bro. Wright, the year he was Master of Charity Lodge in 1944. The presentation took place at the September meeting of Charity Lodge No. 67.

### NORTH STAR LODGE NO. 4

At its regular meeting in April, North Star Lodge No. 4 presented Life Membership Certificates to: R.W. Bro. M.W. Steen, Bro. D.F. Murray, Bro. F.G. Briegel and Bro. J.W. Danielson.

### GRAND MASTER UP NORTH

The Grand Master M.W. Bro. M.N. McIver, and the Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. M.P. Dunford visited Yellowknife Lodge No. 162 at an emergent meeting of that Lodge held in April and Polaris Lodge No. 186 at Fort Smith, N.W.T.

### DISTRICT CHURCH PARADE

The members of Lodges in District No. 11 held their Annual Church Parade in St. Aldhelm's Anglican Church in Vulcan on April 25. Lodge was opened in the Lodge Hall at 10:00 a.m. and then the brethren paraded to the church service.

## FROM THE MASONIC BULLETIN OF THE GRAND LODGE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SEPTEMBER 1972

On April 10, 1972 in Western Gate Lodge No. 48, Vancouver, B.C., Bro. James Bracegirdle, a member of Buffalo Park Lodge No. 44, G.L. of Alberta, was presented a 50 year Button by M.W. Bro. Nicholas Mussallem, P.G.M., who in his remarks, related the distinguished service this Brother had given to Canada. He was born in Lancashire, England in 1890, emigrated to Canada and in 1905 settled in Broadview, Sask. then known as 'Assiniboia.' Bro. Bracegirdle enlisted in the '50th Canadian Light Infantry' in 1915, entered the hardware business after demobilization and went to Wainwright, Alta. in 1921, in which year he was raised in Buffalo Park Lodge No. 44. He will be celebrating his 82nd birthday on December 22nd next and he and his wife their 50th wedding anniversary on January 1, 1973.

Note — Bro. Bracegirdle recently received his sixty year bar.

## PORT OF MISSING MEN

Dominion Lodge No. 117 would like the addresses of —

Barrie Winton Aldrich last of Silverdale Road, Calgary.  
Mason Howitson McKinnon last of 2510 - 15 Ave. S., Lethbridge.

William Frederick Albright last of 612 Louise Rd. S.W., Calgary.

Kevin Paul Rundle last of Box 384, Whitby, Ontario.

Weldon Hugh Snow last of 6871 b Grapevine Highway, Ft. Worth, Texas.

Donald Young last of 1711, 1171 Ambleside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario.

Please send information to Bro. D. Dobie, Central Masonic Temple, 10318 - 100 Avenue, Edmonton.

Wetaskiwin Lodge No. 15 requests assistance in locating Bro. Vernon Henry Hamm. His last known address was #6 Oldbury Street, Red Deer, Alberta. Please communicate with Bro. T.A. Drolet, Secretary, 5412 - 44 Avenue, Wetaskiwin, Alberta T9A 0C7.

## MASTER'S MESSAGE

(W.Bro. A.G. Gilbert, Exemplar Lodge No. 175)

When I was a boy and lived on a farm, in Eastern Alberta, we had a long, cold winter. Very similar to the one we have just experienced. We lived in an old farm house with no insulation, single pane windows, no furnace and only wood stoves for heat.

I did not realize it at the time, but it must have been extremely difficult for my father, he had a wife and five children, and assorted livestock, to feed and keep from freezing through weeks of sub-zero weather.

The nearest town was ten miles away, traversable only by horses or by men or women on skis, we had never heard of snow plows or winterized cars at that time. All in all it must have been an anxious time for him.

However, spring came, and one day, as Dad and I were doing the chores the snow was melting, the sun was shining, and it was a glorious day. I remarked how great it was, that winter was over and summer was on its way. Dad agreed with me, but said, that winter like the one we had just experienced was good for you, that it strengthened your moral fibre.

Being about ten or eleven years old I did not know what he was talking about so he explained it to me. The difficulties of food storage, gathering wood for fuel and all the duties necessary to keep family and livestock through the winter, then he said "When spring comes, you can look around and say to yourself, 'by God I made it', and it strengthens your moral fibre, it is good for you."

So Brethren, the more difficult the job, the more moral benefit you derive from completing it.

FREEMASONRY . . . insists that the individual is more important than the mass. The smoothed ashlar is Freemasonry's real concern; the total design is in the hands of God.

Consequently, the individual's moral growth is more important to the Fraternity than any nationwide or international program of public relations or influence. The sum total of any organization's public relations is the image created by each individual member in the eyes of his immediate and distant neighbors.

— Conrad Hahn, 1963  
Eureka Lodge No. 10