



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 48, NO. 6

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

FEBRUARY, 1983

## **EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP**

**April 15, 16, 17, 1983**

**BANFF CENTRE, BANFF, ALBERTA**

**REGISTER EARLY**

### **THEME — BE POSITIVE**

There are probably few masons who have not encountered or been involved in conversations which have focused on negative matters related to Freemasonry. Predictably, the topics would have included lack of attendance, few, if any candidates etc., and additional concerns which could be dwelled upon at length. Perhaps it is time to reflect on the fact that masonry has been around for a long, long time, and it must have something to offer.

At the Banff Spring Workshop each year, 500 masons demonstrate that masonry has something to offer and is "alive and well" through their expressions of interest, by offering and/or participating in instructional activities, and coming to the realization that one should not labor on problems in the Craft, but concentrate on how we can make it even better. A positive theme is thus being carried in to the eighteenth annual workshop, and I look forward to your participation there.

Please register as soon as possible as accommodation is limited to 500 at the Banff Centre. All Master Masons are welcome, especially those who have never attended the Workshop before. I am sure you will enjoy the weekend which is characterized by its informal atmosphere.

R.R. Powell,  
GENERAL CHAIRMAN

**REGISTRATION CARDS AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LODGE SECRETARY**

**LIMIT — 500 — COST \$85.00**

**CHEQUE MUST BE SENT WITH REGISTRATION**

**DO NOT MAIL CASH — YOUR CANCELLED CHEQUE WILL BE YOUR RECEIPT**

**THE THEME SPEAKER**

R.W. Bro. David Alexander Bruce was initiated into Masonry in 1959. He was elected Worshipful Master of Crescent Lodge No. 87 in 1970 and has been the Organist continuously since 1971. Bro. Bruce is a third generation member of Crescent Lodge; both his father and grandfather are Past Masters of this lodge. He was Grand Pursuivant in 1980/81 and served in the office of District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 18 in 1981/82. R.W. Bro. Bruce's father was the District Deputy Grand Master of this same district in 1967/68.

R.W. Bro. Bruce is an educator by profession, currently serving as Principal of Annie Foote Elementary School in North East Calgary. He holds a Bachelor of Education Degree and a Graduate Diploma in Educational Administration from the University of Calgary.

R.W. Bro. Bruce has prepared and delivered a number of papers for Masonic Education to various lodges.

**SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION**

This year we will be offering six schools of instruction and a presentation of Masonic education:

1. MASTERS - discussions will include preparations for this office and implementation of ideas and plans.
2. PAST MASTERS - as teachers and advisors, policemen and servants, this school will assist you. Internal and external affairs will be dis-cussed.
3. WARDENS - this session deals with the administration, duties, responsibilities, and committees of this office.
4. APPOINTED OFFICERS & TYLER - focus will be on activities, specific and general duties.
5. MASTER MASONS - leadership, Masonic involvement, and committee duties to be analyzed.
6. SECRETARY, TREASURER, SECRETARY/TREASURER - the role of this officer as record keeper and assistant to the Worshipful Master to be examined.

Again this year we will be sponsoring some Masonic education which we hope will be food for thought as well as practical instruction that you can take back to your lodge.

Your committee has made a real effort to present new speakers and revised subject matter to you. All of this has been planned with you in mind and your participation is faithfully sought.

There will be discussion groups as in the past and your participation is expected.

REGISTRATION CARDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LODGE SECRETARY and is on a first come first served basis.

**EIGHTEENTH BANFF  
MASONIC WORKSHOP  
AGENDA**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 15th, 1983**

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 3:00 P.M.<br>Onward    | Registration, locate Discussion Rooms and Book Sales in the Auditorium, Administration Building.     |
| 6:00 P.M.<br>7:45 P.M. | SUPPER<br>ANNOUNCEMENTS -<br>Eric Harvie Theatre   |
| 8:00 P.M.              | Theme Address - Eric Harvie Theatre  |
| 9:00-10:00 P.M.        | DISCUSSION GROUPS  |
| 10:15 P.M.             | Bookstore - Auditorium of Administration Building. Schools of Instruction Leaders meet with Chairman |

COFFEE AND DONUTS WILL BE SERVED

**SATURDAY, APRIL 16th, 1983**

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|------------------|---|
| 7:00 A.M.        | BREAKFAST   |
| 9:00-10:15 A.M.  | Schools of Instruction                                      |
| 10:30-11:45 A.M. | DISCUSSION GROUPS   |
| 12:00 Noon       | LUNCH   |
| 1:15- 2:30 P.M.  | Schools of Instruction                                      |
| 3:00- 4:15 P.M.  | Masonic Education - Eric Harvie Theatre                     |
| 5:15 P.M.        | SUPPER - BOOKSTORE CLOSES                                   |
| 6:30- 7:15 P.M.  | Masonic Education (Drama)<br>Eric Harvie Theatre            |
| 7:15- 7:45 P.M.  | Theme Address - Eric Harvie Theatre                         |
| 8:00- 9:00 P.M.  | DISCUSSION GROUPS   |
| 9:30 P.M.        | Coffee and Do-Nuts, Auditorium -<br>Administration Building |

**SUNDAY, APRIL 17th, 1983**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 8:00 A.M. | Coffee - Eric Harvie Theatre                                     |
| 8:15 A.M. | Chairman's Remarks   |
| 8:30 A.M. | Devotional Service, Bro. Rev. David Cook,<br>P.G. Chaplain (124) |
| 9:30 A.M. | Breakfast  |

**WHO WILL CLOSE THE DOOR?**

(When R.W. Bro. R.J.L. Borland was installed as Worshipful Master of Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980 last September he, according to the custom of the Lodge, read a Research paper with the above title. The entire paper will be available to the members of the Lodge. It is only possible in the Bulletin to print a small part of it. The first part of the paper deals with some statistics. He states that prior to 1920 one in four applicants for membership in Freemasonry were rejected. This is in startling contrast to the years from 1975 to 1982 when one in 54 were rejected. We publish the latter half of this remarkable paper.)

I interviewed 147 of my contemporaries throughout the Jurisdiction this last year and presented a loosely-worded questionnaire trying to find some answers. The survey was taken by roughly 1% of the Masonic population, for it involved large and small Lodges; large city and smaller country Lodges; new candidates to senior citizens of the Craft. There was even a mixture of Canadian Rite and Ancient York Rite people involved. I went so far as to interview some men whom I knew had been in the Craft but had left for one reason or another.

Of the 147 to whom I spoke, it was comfort to find that 97 (or 66%) of them admitted to having received no form of coercion or outside persuasion and their answers to the Worshipful Master upon entry were therefore correct and honest. But what frightened me more than anything else was the fact that 50 (34%) admitted to having had some form of solicitation, ranging from a gentle 'nudge' by a relative, usually a father, to one city brother who told me quite candidly, "My sponsor came to me with an application and asked me to sign it because he thought that I should join some of my business colleagues in the Lodge."

This was most intriguing, so I pursued the matter further; and I found that this brother, who has since moved to Calgary, never heard from a character committee prior to the degrees (one of my own Lodge PM's told me that same thing) and no explanations or talks were forthcoming, before, during or after the degrees; only the memory work and that was done to a great degree by himself with the help of a photostat of the work portions. Although he has now moved to Calgary, he has not been back to his, or any Lodge, since receiving his third degree.

This brother is not alone as there were five others in the survey that admitted to me that they had had no visitation prior to getting their initiatory degrees. This revelation frightens me and I hope that it frightens you enough to start some preventative actions.

Some of the questions put to all participants, after reassuring them of the reason for my quest, and guaranteeing them whatever secrecy they requested, were:

- How old are you?
- How long have you been in the Masonic Order?
- Have you held offices in your Lodge?
- Did you proceed through to be W.M.?
- What first attracted you to Freemasonry?

Was there any form of approach, or solicitation, made to you?

If so, in what form did the solicitation take?

What masonic discussion did you have before being initiated?

What Masonic discussions did you have during or after the degrees were taken?

Was your sponsor instrumental in teaching and guiding you?

These questions usually evoked a longer discussion and many times, I had to say no more. But to give you a bit of background to those taking part, let me say that:

The average age of those to whom I spoke was 53.

The average masonic age of those brethren was 12.

112 of those taking part were holding or had held office and of those 89 went on to be WM's of their Lodge.

11 had left the Craft voluntarily, and 6 had simply walked away and had allowed themselves to be suspended NPD.

7 of those who left the Craft did so because they saw nothing to their liking, no future, no stimulation in the meetings.

4 left because of personality problems, or, as one put it, "for catching hell for not doing my floor-work correctly."

What I learned from these men, was not so much the fact that over 1/3 of them had been coerced to join the Craft, but what this 1/3 now thought of the 'own free will and accord' landmark of the Order that we profess to observe and maintain.

Almost to a man, I found that to them a gentle 'nudge' or push would be quite in order, as a recruiting tool for someone "they thought should be in the Lodge." It has even been suggested by one Master that there be a contest with a prize for the man bringing in the most candidates to his Lodge. Obviously, the letter that we in Alberta make available to Lodges, in order to help to qualify their applicants, means very little in their quest for candidates, and this letter must mean less to those who were recruited.

The point that the survey study is making is quite clear; it tells us that the percentage of Masons in Alberta who think that it is quite in order to go out and 'shake the tree' is growing and that these men now make up a percentage of the members who form Character Committees that sit in judgement on the qualifications of those new applicants asking for Craft membership. With this thinking at the preparation room door, will not the floodgates open wide and make this Craft just another 'club' to join, try for a while and if you don't like what you see, well you can just walk away. It is my belief that, from talking to these men, that we are well on the way.

Just listen to them talk of membership drives, getting out some advertising material that will tell the world who and what we are. To my view these are out and out recruiting tools, and will do away with any semblance of 'FREE WILL AND ACCORD' in our applicants.

#### BUT WHO WILL CLOSE THE DOOR?

How can we stem the flood of people who obviously think that the voluntary approach to our membership is a thing of the past and who advocate the recruiting of candidates, and who are now sitting in judgement of new arrivals at the door?

The answer is not as easy as the question. From my 147 'surveyees' the most common answer, from 46 that saw a problem ahead, was to the effect that the two important committees, the Character Committee and the Board of Installed Masters must be operative, to see that no unqualified person slips past them. It was the consensus, it seemed to me, that if these two Committees were working properly that the big part of our problem would be reduced, greatly, if not entirely.

There was the suggestion put forward many times that the Character Committee needs assistance in order to do their work better. Instead of each going its indefinite way alone, that there be a standard form of questionnaire prepared that would ask the proper questions. It seems obvious that the letter that is presently made available to all Lodges in Alberta is not being used, or at least, not heeded by many of the Lodges. For starters, it was suggested that the letters should be read by the sponsor and the applicant, signed and returned to the Lodge for filing in the candidate file. This would assure that the letter had been read by both. Next, and this is my opinion, the application should be re-structured to ask more searching questions, the answers to which would give the Committee a better grounding upon which to base their decision.

To paraphrase a saying of our legal brethren "I would rather see 50 good men turned down, than let one bad one slide in", and I say that for I think that a good man will continue his good ways without the benefit of our teachings, but a 'bad' member will tear down everything that we have tried to build, we will all be judged by his actions and the Craft could be made to look ludicrous and shallow to the outside world and we would be destroyed.

Sponsors names kept cropping up in my conversations. A great many felt that names were being supplied by some sponsors who did not really know the candidate they were sponsoring. It was suggested, and I think that it is an excellent suggestion, that the sponsors be required to write to the Committee as to why he is confident in his sponsorship. Sponsors should be the ones to know the applicant best and should be the one to plead the applicant's case before the Committee. This method, as I see it would greatly lift the burden from the Committees in smaller centres, where a real test of faith is experienced when the candidate is well known by all.

It was interesting to follow up on the suggestion re the second Committee. Almost to a man it was stated that Lodges were not receiving enough, and in some cases any, Light during their meetings. There is merit in the statement for I have been into Lodges where the Master had found it difficult to open and close this Lodge, and seemed indifferent to the rules laid down by our Constitution. They almost never perform any degree work, but farm it out to others. What kind of leadership and what "lessons of virtue" will proceed from this type of East?

Not that ritualistic perfection is a must, for it is not, but an indifferent attitude will result in the deterioration of the beauty of our lessons and they will be lost on the candidates and all will lose Light.

How any Committee elected by the Lodge brethren to look after their interests and to see that the Lodge leadership is maintained at a high level, could attest to a false declaration of excellence, is beyond my ken. It is the crux of our whole problem, I suggest, for if a weak and uncaring Master is installed, the whole framework of Masonry is weakened and I am afraid that the whole structure will tumble about our ears.

It must not happen.

Those who care about the Craft must raise their voices against what they see happening to the Craft in Alberta. They must let it be known that they:

Do not want to become just another club.

Do not want to be part of membership field-days or contests.

Do not want to be judged by outsiders on the behavior of a few that do not know the meaning of Freemasonry, and who knowingly break the laws of God, Man and Freemasonry.

But that they certainly DO want:

To have the Mason put back into his rightful place in Masonry.

To be ruled by men who only have the Craft at heart, firstly.

To be taught by competent and knowledgeable teachers.

To be sure that the Master that is installed is able and properly qualified to lead a Lodge.

To be sure that those in, and that those coming in, are well screened to ensure that their aims and qualifications are of a high standard so that we can all enjoy a mutual learning experience.

At the outset of this piece, I had hoped that there would be a solution present itself that would answer my original question of:

#### "WHO WILL CLOSE THE DOOR?"

I have failed, but it is my hope that some of the fears that have been expressed after researching the statistics and brethren that I have, will cause you alarm. I hope that, as Worshipful Master of this Lodge, that I have spread a bit of Light to this Jurisdiction on this topical subject, as I am charged to do.

I would like to conclude by quoting our good friend and Brother M.W. Bro. Dwight Smith, who concluded his great lecture series called "Whither are we Travelling?", by saying:

"I come to the conclusion of this series of exploratory articles, with my faith in the basic worth of our Ancient Craft unshaken, convinced that the solution to Freemasonry's problems is "FREE-MASONRY".

WHY DO WE NOT TRY IT?"



The above photograph shows W. Bro. Harry W. Roxburgh, who received his sixty year bar in May of this year. He is flanked by M. W. Bro. Norman MacIver, P.G.M. on the left and W. Bro. Alfie Wong on the right.

W. Bro. Harry Roxburgh is 91 years old and is the senior member of Eastgate Lodge No. 192. He was presented with the bar by M. W. Bro. N.M. MacIver.

## SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Camrose Lodge No. 37 held its 75th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, November 6th commencing with a roast beef dinner served in the Banquet room by Temple Chapter No. 49 O.E.S. followed by a Lodge meeting in the Hall.

The Toastmaster at the banquet was R. W. Bro. MacLean and the guest speaker was M. W. Bro. M. Merner, P.G.M. who spoke of senior members of the Craft and of Grand Lodge and the early days of Masonry in Camrose with particular mention of M. W. Bro. Watson Young, P.G.M. who was Grand Master in 1921 and a member of Camrose Lodge No. 37. The Anniversary Choir entertained with appropriate numbers at the banquet and at the Lodge meeting.

The Lodge meeting was presided over by W. Bro. Gordon Burrows with all the chairs being filled by Past Masters. The Lodge presented 56 members with their 25 year pins and certificates. The honor and responsibility going along with this pin was impressed on the recipients by M. W. Bro. MacIver, P.G.M., the pins were given out by W. Bro. Gerber and recipients were congratulated by M. W. Bro. Harbin, the M. W. the Grand Master. M. W. Bro. Harbin gave a very interesting and informative Masonic talk. Bro. Darrell Peterson presented our distinguished guests M. W. Bro. Harbin, M. W. Bro. Merner, M. W. Bro. MacIver, M. W. Bro. Hardin, V. W. Bro. Wilde, V. W. Bro. Dickout, R. W. Bro. Thompson, R. W. Bro. Crawford, R. W. Bro. Gibb, V. W. Bro. Roberts and our newly initiated candidate Bro. Murray Campbell with gold embossed Anniversary coins.

The Lodge was very impressively closed by M. W. Bro. Merner. There were 115 Masons in attendance from Camrose, the district, Edmonton and as far away as Vernon, B.C. to the West and Ottawa to the East.

Camrose Lodge wishes to thank all those Masons who attended and helped make our 75th Anniversary such a success. The committee has a few Anniversary coins and leather Masonic coasters left if any of the coin collectors or gift seekers are interested contact Carl A. Johnson, 4212 - 62nd Street, Camrose.

## KENNILWORTH LODGE NO. 29

The regular meeting of Kennilworth Lodge No. 9 in December was preceded by the Annual Moose Dinner. M. W. Bro. Stanley Harbin, Grand Master was in attendance for the dinner and the Lodge meeting and spoke to the members.

## THE PORT OF MISSING MEN

T.F. ANDERSON — Last known address — 44 Woodfern Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2W 4E4. If anyone knows the present address of this brother please inform Bro. T. Dillmer, Secretary, Spitzie Lodge No. 6, Pincher Creek, Alberta T0K 1W0.

SAM COHEN — Last known address — #403 - 3316 Rideau Place S.W., Calgary. Please send new address to James Kew, Secretary-Treasurer, Lucerne Doric Lodge No. 31, Vauxhall, Alberta.

## THE GRAND LODGE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### QUESTIONS

1. During the year, an officer of the Lodge becomes incapacitated. What may the W.M. do in that case to fill the vacancy?
2. By May the W.M. experiences additional work in his job; he can no longer do justice to the office of W.M.; therefore he resigns. Comment?
3. The W.M. feels he has good reason to call three emergent meetings in one month. May he do so?
4. Who are the Grand Lodge Officers to whom a copy of every summons must be sent by the Secretary, on orders of the W.M.?
5. Is it the W.M.'s responsibility, or the Secretary's only, to forward to Grand Lodge the semi-annual returns (covering the G.L. assessment)? This has to take place as soon as possible after which dates.?

Answers next month.

## ASSISTANT TO THE GRAND SECRETARY

The Board of General Purposes at its meeting in November accepted a report from the Chairman of the Finance Committee, R. W. Bro. E.A. Demers in which he recommended that W. Bro. Allen Frederick Aylesworth be appointed Assistant to the Grand Secretary. W. Bro. Aylesworth was initiated, passed and raised in Calgary Lodge No. 23 in 1972 and was installed as Worshipful Master of that Lodge in 1980. The appointment is for a period of six months following which, if approved, he will become Assistant Grand Secretary. It is anticipated that he will assume the position of Grand Secretary when R. W. Bro. Dunford leaves office in June 1984. W. Bro. Aylesworth commenced his duties in the Grand Lodge Office in January.

## HIGHER EDUCATION BURSARIES

Applications for the Masonic Higher Education Bursaries must be in the Grand Lodge Office no later than April 30th. Applicants must write to the Grand Lodge Office previous to that date to obtain an Application Form. All High Schools should have information about the Bursaries since the information is in the Universities Financial Assistance Information. The Higher Education Bursary Committee wishes information to be as widely publicized as possible and suggests that Masons make sure that students in their areas know of the availability of the financial aid. Masons in Alberta have contributed the money for the bursaries. They are now invited to help the Higher Education Bursary Committee spend it.