



Grand Lodge Bulletin

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

SEPTEMBER, 1983

GORDON DENCHFIELD THOMPSON GRAND MASTER 1983-84



Born in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan May 28, 1921. Took his public and high school education in Lashburn, Saskatchewan, attended University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, in the engineering and commerce faculties prior to joining the R.C.A.F. in November 1941. Served with the R.C.A.F. and R.A.F. Ferry Command as a navigator and navigation instructor until March 1945. Joined the federal civil service with the audit division of the Department of National Revenue in Edmonton in April 1945. Since that time he has served in various sections of the audit division and at present is the Chief of Field Audit for the Edmonton District office.

M.W. Bro. Thompson married Joan A. Pickard of Edmonton in 1943 and they have been blessed with two sons Steve and David. He was Initiated into freemasonry in West Edmonton Lodge No. 101 G.R.A. in August 1950. Served as Worshipful Master of that lodge in 1969-70, and was elected District Deputy Grand Master District No. 12 1975-76. He served on the Board of General Purposes and in June 1981 was elected Junior Grand Warden. He was appointed Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia in 1983. In June of 1983 he was elected and installed the Grand Master of Masons in Alberta.

He has been active in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite as chairman of the Finance Committee of the joint bodies of Edmonton, and is presently serving as the Commander-In-Chief of the Alberta Consistory. He is also a member of the Royal Order of Scotland.

He has been an active member of St. Mary's Anglican Church for many years serving on the vestry, the Boy Scout Group Committee, and for thirty years a member of the choir.

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Brethren, may I first express to each of you my sincere thanks for the great honor you have bestowed upon me in electing me to the office of Grand Master of this Alberta jurisdiction. I approach the year with a deep sense of humility and enthusiasm, generated in large measure by the tremendous outflow of support tendered by brethren throughout this jurisdiction. I trust that with a positive and happy approach I, together with your Grand Lodge Officers will be enabled to lead this jurisdiction in an outstanding year of happiness and good fellowship. We will I am sure make some mistakes and I ask you to be masonic in your judgement of us.

If this can happen, my theme of "Masonry in Action" will have ascended the first step on the ladder of success. From there brethren I ask each of you to put your masonry into action in your daily lives and in your communities. Let us tell the world what freemasonry is and how proud we are to be masons. I hope we can all be positive in our approach and, instead of emphasizing the problems of today, let us devote our best efforts towards overcoming the causes of the problems. Success my brethren will not be instantaneous, it is a slow process. The Great Light of Freemasonry provides the guidance for all of us, pointing out that it is **our** duty to plant the seed, and to be sure we plant it in fertile soil so that the fruits of our labors may be strong and healthy. With our dedication and devotion to the principles and with the help of the Great Architect our task will not be difficult. But let us remember that we are masons for life and we must therefore continue to plant the seed regardless of the results of our former labors.

While putting my masonry into action I hope that I will be able to share the hand of fellowship with many of you during the coming year.

Gordon D. Thompson
Grand Master



GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION RED DEER 1983

Pictures by the kindness of M.W. Bro. R.L. Costigan, PGM

FIRST COLUMN

1. *The Grand Master's Luncheon*
2. *Distinguished Visitors are Received*
3. *The Colours are presented*

MIDDLE COLUMN

4. *The Grand Master reports to Grand Lodge*
5. *M.W. Bro. J. Reesor Bingeman addresses the banquet*
6. *Visitors from Australia*
7. *Past Grand Masters greet the new Grand Master*

THIRD COLUMN

8. *The Stewards are invested*
9. *The Grand Master's Lodge greets him*
10. *The Installing Master presents the Grand Master with his cuffs.*

THE GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

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June 13	Jasper No. 14, Edmonton
June 16-18	Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan - Moose Jaw, Sask.
June 21	Norwood No. 90, Edmonton
June 22-25	Grand Lodge of British Columbia - Penticton, B.C.
July 4	District No. 13 meeting - Hythe
July 7	Exemplar No. 175 - Universiade Meeting
July 19-24	Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario - Toronto, Ont.
Sept. 1-3	Banff Conference of the Four Western Jurisdictions
Sept. 6	Kenilworth No. 29, Red Deer
Sept. 7	West Edmonton No. 101, Edmonton
Sept. 9	Strathcona No. 77, Edmonton
Sept. 14	Research and Education Committee, Red Deer
Sept. 20	Unity No. 51, Edmonton
Sept. 22	Saskatchewan No. 92, Edmonton
Sept. 27	Highlands No. 168, Edmonton
Sept. 28	Mystic Tye No. 188, Edmonton
Oct. 1	District No. 20 Meeting, Ft. Edmonton Park
Oct. 8	District No. 10 Meeting, Elk Point
Oct. 14	District No. 7 Meeting, Lethbridge
Oct. 15	District No. 11 Meeting, Lethbridge
Oct. 21	District No. 15 Meeting, Drumheller
Oct. 22	District No. 9 Meeting, Alix
Oct. 24	District No. 17 Meeting, Irma
Oct. 26-28	Alberta Consistory, Edmonton
Oct. 29	District No. 3 Meeting, Edmonton
Nov. 1	Vulcan No. 74 - Annual Game Supper
Nov. 4	District No. 14 Meeting, Craigmyle
Nov. 5	District No. 2 Meeting, Medicine Hat
Nov. 7	District No. 1 Meeting, Calgary
Nov. 9	Board of General Purposes, Red Deer
Nov. 12	District No. 12 Meeting, Edmonton
Nov. 14	District No. 3 Meeting, Camrose
Nov. 18	District No. 18 Meeting, Calgary
Nov. 19	District No. 16 Meeting, Strathmore
Nov. 26	District No. 4 Meeting, Red Deer
Dec. 15	Ivanhoe No. 142, Edmonton
Dec. 19	Empire No. 63, Edmonton

THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH COMMUNICATION

Attendance at the Grand Lodge Communication was 654. This was made up of 107 Worshipful Masters, 445 Past Masters, 73 Wardens and 29 Master Masons. The total voting strength was 818.

Out of the 162 Lodges in Alberta there was representation from 129. This means that 33 Lodges were without representation.

R.W. Bro. William Graves was elected Junior Grand Warden. He is a member of Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2.

W. Bro. Arthur Liddell Swindells was elected Grand Registrar. Bro. Swindells is a member of Zetland Lodge No. 83.

Because of the disruption in the line of Senior Grand Lodge Officers the office of Senior Grand Warden was left vacant. The incoming Grand Master appointed a Past Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Norman McIver, to act as Senior Grand Warden for the year. This action has to be ratified at the Fall Meeting of the Board of General Purposes.

In his address the retiring Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Stanley Harbin said, "Masonry regards no man for his worldly wealth or honour, for it values a sovereign no more than the one who must walk in the more humble path of life. Masonry bids her highest and humblest to go where he will, world-wide, not as a stranger but where he will find friends and brothers."

The incoming Grand Master, M.W. Bro. G.D. Thompson said in his address following his installation that he would recommend for Daily Devotions his Father's Prayer, "Lord, let my life have meaning."

The voting for membership on the Board of General Purposes was so close that it was necessary to order a recount so that there be no mistake.

The title of Very Worshipful Bro., Past Grand Chaplain was granted to Rev. Canon James Linster, who acted as Grand Chaplain in former years.

The Constitution was amended to make mandatory that Form 1B be sent to the Grand Lodge Office with the Semi Annual Returns. Form 1B is the letter that is sent to every Prospective Candidate before he is given a Petition for Initiation. It informs the prospective candidate about the Craft and tells him that a Committee will investigate his suitability for Initiation. It has been required for some time that form 1B be used but some Lodges have failed to follow the constitution. The new ruling will serve to check on the use of form 1B and will also serve as a legal protection for the Craft.

Lake Saskatoon Lodge No. 106 was able to persuade Grand Lodge to have the 1986 Grand Lodge Communication in the City of Grande Prairie. The present Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. C.R.A. Green is a member of that Lodge.

The Jurisprudence Committee called attention to the fact that two Lodges had sent circular letters to other Lodges soliciting support for a project. Neither Lodge had requested permission from the Grand Master to do this and were violating the Constitution. No such enterprise may be launched without the permission of the Grand Master.

Attention of all Lodges was directed to Section 46 of the Constitution which requires that all communication with the Grand Master of Masonic Business must be directed through the Grand Lodge Office.

A motion was proposed that would have moved the Grand Lodge Offices from Calgary to Red Deer. There was considerable discussion on this. The same suggestion was made a few years ago and the Grand Master of the time appointed a committee to study the proposal. This time M.W. Bro. K. Crockett, PGM, moved that the suggestion be referred to the Board of General Purposes for study. That motion was carried.

The Financial Statement of Grand Lodge showed a surplus of \$19,106.96 for 1982-83. The Budget for 1983-84 forecasts a deficit of \$23,700.00. The Finance Committee was not unduly alarmed over this situation and did not request an increase in the per capita tax. They warned that if they were unable to reduce some of the expenditures an increase would be necessary in the near future.

M.W. Bro. S.H. Hardin, P.G.M., gave his usual comprehensive view of Freemasonry throughout the world. His report will make excellent reading in the Proceedings. He noted that Lodges in England prefer to have a membership numbering from 85 to 100 and do not look with favour on the large lodge membership. The small Lodge makes for better fellowship. The Grand Lodge of Spain has requested recognition by our Grand Lodge but M.W. Bro. Hardin suggested this be delayed by one year.

On the same subject there is an article by R.W. Bro. J.H. Laycraft in the Proceedings concerning Grand Representatives. This would make good reading and discussion of it at a Lodge Meeting would make a profitable program.

FIAT LUX LODGE OF RESEARCH INSTALLATION

Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980 will be holding its Ceremony of Installation on Saturday, October 1st, 1983 at Lethbridge Masonic Temple. On this occasion the newly Installed Worshipful Master R.W. Bro. S.K. Sproul will deliver his inaugural paper entitled "The Masonic Penalties."

All are welcome but those wishing to stay for the banquet should contact W. Bro. N. Senn, at Box 102, Stn. G., Calgary, Alberta.



M.W. Bro. Stanley Harbin laid the cornerstone of the new Forestburg Lodge Hall on June 4. A picture of the cornerstone is shown above. Also pictured is the procession of Masons from the old Lodge Hall to the new one. The procession is headed by two pipers and the old Lodge Hall may be seen in the background.



Recently Elbow River Lodge No. 180 admitted a father and son to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. The Bros. Hamilton were honored to have the father and grandfather Bro. R. Cormack assisting in the ceremony. That evening with W. Bro. John Clay as Worshipful Master five candidates were raised.



Hinton No. 178 celebrated its 25th Anniversary on its Regular Meeting of February 5th, 1983. At this meeting 25 year pins were awarded to some of the Brethren. Grand Lodge Brethren were represented by the Grand Master and his party.

Members of the Official Party are as follows: Back row, left to right: R.W. Bro. Alex Shirley, P.D.D.G.M.; R.W. Bro. Chas. Young, P.D.D.G.M.; R.W. Bro. Gordon Thompson, S.G. W.; R.W. Bro. Dexter Champion, P.D.G.M.; R.W. Bro. Gordon Renton, P.D.D.G.M. Front row, left to right: V.W. Bro. Anthony Rocchio, P.G. Stewart; M.W. Bro. Stanley Harbin, Grand Master; W. Bro. Waldo Wasson, W.M. Hinton No. 178; R.W. Bro. David Neill, D.D.G.M.-Dist. No. 3.

After the Meeting, the celebrations continued with a Banquet and Dance, a good meeting and a lot of fellowship and Masonry abounded on that day.



At a recent meeting a large attendance of brethren of Patricia Lodge No. 91 GRA and several visiting brethren witnessed the presentation of a 60 year membership bar to Brother Albert Russell Carter.

Brother Carter was initiated on September 20, 1920 and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason November 29, 1920. He received his 50 year membership jewel in 1973 and his 60 year bar after 62 years of continuous membership.

When making the presentation R.W. Bro. Clarence Comrie briefly outlined the circumstances of the delays in conveying the honours on the 86 year old brother. He also explained how owing to the nature of Brother Carter's profession of Optometrist and his serving a large rural area together with many other activities had prevented regular attendance during his professional career.

Brother Carter has more recently become a regular attender and is thoroughly enjoying companionship with his masonic brethren.

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

The Board of General Purposes of the United Grand Lodge of England made two very interesting rulings recently:

1. All brethren attending Communications of Grand Lodge must wear plain black ties. The Board stressed that ties bearing an emblem, whether in the weave or as a coloured design are not acceptable.

2. This is a quotation "It has been reported that in some instances individuals are being called upon to pay the entire costs of the after-proceedings. The Board finds it necessary to state plainly that no Brother, and particularly no Candidate and no Master, should in any circumstances be required to pay for meals provided for anyone other than himself and his personal guests."

THE FOUR CORNERS

R.W. Bro. Sir James Stubbs, PSGW, Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England, 1958-1980 has brought together the reports made to the Grand Lodge of Masonic trips abroad which he made with M.W. Bros. Earl of Scarbrough or Earl Cadogan, or on his own, and linked them up with a connecting narrative.

He has included also his accounts of the world tour, July 1980 to February 1981 which he made with Lady Stubbs on his retirement: this has not hitherto been published.

It is felt that this book will be of great interest not only in the wide diversity of areas mentioned in the Reports but also at home where much may be learned from it of the conditions of English Freemasonry overseas, and of some other jurisdictions too.

CASCADE LODGE NO. 5

At its regular meeting in May Cascade Lodge No. 5 presented Bro. W. Warke with a sixty year bar for his Fifty Year Jewel. Bro. Warke made a special trip from his home in Surrey, B.C. to receive the bar. W.Bro. Charles Skates was not well enough to attend the May meeting to be honoured by receiving his sixty year bar so W.Bro. Punshon, Worshipful Master of Cascade Lodge made the presentation at Bro. Skates' home. Previously W.Bro. C.R. Philpott had received a Fifty Year Jewel.

CORINTHIAN LODGE NO. 22

Corinthian Lodge perpetuated a long standing tradition in June when the Annual Church Parade was held at Okotoks United Church. The Lodge was opened in the Lodge Hall at 10:00 a.m. and then the brethren continued on to the church service. Following the service a lunch was served in the basement of the church. That afternoon the brethren and their families gathered in the beautiful area west of Turner Valley for their annual barbecue and picnic.

BANFF CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference of the Grand Master and Grand Lodge Officers of the Western Jurisdictions was held in the Banff Centre on September 1, 2 and 3. The Conference opened in the Masonic Lodge Hall at Banff where the members of Cascade Lodge No. 5 were hosts to the group. All other meetings were held in the Banff Centre. Alberta's Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. C.R.A. Green presented a paper titled, "Masonry or Apathy".