



Grand Lodge Bulletin

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EDITOR, R.W. BRO. NORMAN J. SENN

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GRAND MASTER'S NEW YEARS MESSAGE

JANUARY 1986

As we leave the festive season and commence a New Year may we all, as Brothers and Citizens of this World, stop and think about our duties and responsibilities to the Craft and to the rest of Mankind. We are here to make the Craft a better organization to be in and we are here to make the World a better place in which to live. Live by the obligations which you have undertaken and present the Extended Hand of Masonry to all that you meet. Let the World know that you are a Mason and proud of it. Let our fraternity earn the place in this World that we claim to deserve.

"Dear Master, as the old year dieth soon, take Thou my harp, and prove if any string out of tune, or flat or sharp. Correct Thou, Lord, for me that ringeth sharp to Thee, That heart and life may sing, the New Year long, Thy perfect song." (Grand Lodge Bulletin, January 1976).

Brethren, I Extend the Hand of Masonry to one and all for the New Year and wish you and your families a most successful and rewarding 1986.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

M.W. Bro. W.(Bill) C. Graves
Grand Master.

RECOGNITION

A group of Brethren from North Star No. 4, Lethbridge, recently assembled at St. Michaels Hospital to honour Bro. John G. Smith by presenting him with his Sixty Year Bar to his Fifty Year Jewel. Bro. Smith was initiated into Randolph Lodge No. 776, Backhaven, Scotland - 1919. He emigrated to Canada, settling in Lethbridge shortly afterwards and affiliated with North Star No. 4 in January of 1922.

Bro. Smith has always been a loyal member of the Lodge with an exceptional record of attendance. He served as Tyler for many years for which the Lodge was most appreciative.



Photo: R.W. Bro. H.W. Steen presenting Bro. J.G. Smith with his bar.

FROM THE LODGE NOTICES

The following is a condensed writing taken from Grow Digest, written by Gandhi Sinha, Ph.D.

Do you have a problem? Would you like to get rid of all your problems permanently? Did you say "yes"? I hope I heard you wrongly.

Our problems are the essence of our living. Life is virtually impossible in the absence of problems.

One law of nature says that learning requires a stimulus, another law says that strength can be developed only in presence of resistance - the greater the resistance, the more strength can be developed. It is common knowledge that to build your muscles, you need to exercise those muscles, you need to lift some weights. The trees that face the strongest wind turn out to yield the toughest wood which is used to build the most expensive furniture. "Problems provide us with both stimulus and resistance". Thus they create an environment for the growth of our mental power.

Words have a very powerful influence on our actions and our capabilities. Positive words have the same influence on us as pressing the gas pedal on your car. And negative words play the role of the brakes. Every time you replace a negative word by some positive word, you will experience a definite "Lift in you life".

W. Bro. Clarence McDonald, W.M.
Eastgate Lodge No. 192

FROM THE PAST

Those who visit the Masonic Temple on 12th Avenue, S.W. Calgary are fortunate in finding the Bulletins of many Jurisdictions displayed for all to read. This open availability has resulted in much more reading of these fascinating publications. It also means that a number are brought to the attention of the Editor by interested readers. Bro. Wes Thomas of Mosaic Lodge No. 176 who looks after the Grand Lodge Library is such a person and I thank him for bringing a warm sincere article to my attention. It covers so many facets of the practice of Masonry that it is worth reading more than once. Some excerpts of this article are printed below of the address given by M.W. Bro. Sitaram Jaipuria, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India at the Grand Communication held in Bombay on January 19th, 1985.

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Visits have provided me with unique and happy opportunities for fellowship that can be found in no other fraternity. Sometimes I have met a brother who I had not seen for quite some time and suddenly there comes back the warm memory that has persisted through all these pleasures.

As we gather in our Lodge rooms "Exempt from Public Haunt", we can in our Craft catch the meaning of the symbols we use. Tongues of past ages speak to us, the wisdom of many books is gathered for us in the beautiful and fascinating words of our ritual, and the objects we touch and use reveal to us abiding truths. There is so much that can refresh us and send us out to our daily duties reassured of all that is good in human hearts.

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What Masonry stands for:

It is imperative that we have a clear understanding of what Masonry is and what it stands for. We must learn how to apply it to the problems of life, and have a clear understanding of the principles taught within the Lodge Room. We have to realize that the whole duty of man is contained within the rituals of the three degrees. Each passage of our Ritual contains a lesson. The Ritual of our order is not an empty thing, nor a thing of words to catch the ear, but an ancient composition - every word of which is full of symbolism and every act of which is full of meaning. The candidate is introduced to Masonry only by its rituals. All the philosophy of Masonry and the books written thereon after all are expositions of the Ritual. It is basic to genuine understanding of our mysteries. Masonry is a continuing study of Ritual, a study that grows on one. The average Mason does not pay much attention to the symbolism of Masonry, to the meaning of the working tools, the level, the square, the compass and the apron. He needs to be awakened to discover how valuable and beautiful are the lessons conveyed by each act done and every word spoken and by each and every object used in a Masonic Lodge.

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Brethren, we are passing through a very critical period. The society is at crossroads. We Freemasons cannot be insensible to what is happening all around us. For us, Freemasonry and its principles can act as a beacon light in these dark times. In the charge after initiation, a Freemason is asked to seriously contemplate on the volumes of the scroll and consider them as the unerring standard of truth and justice and to regulate his actions by the divine precepts contained therein. These sacred books reach us the important duties we owe to God, to our country, to our laws, to our neighbours and to ourselves. The Mason is asked to act with his neighbour on the square, by rendering him every kind office which justice or mercy may require, by relieving his necessities and soothing his afflictions and by doing to him as in similar cases you would wish he would do to you. A Mason is asked to exert his talents for the welfare of his fellow creatures. What beautiful teachings! Freemasonry does not preach any religion. What it expounds is the essence of all religions. In fact all religions teach us the path to attain the eternal state of bliss. All religions preach essentially the same basic ideas adherence to truth, love of neighbour and belief in God - as does Freemasonry.

Lord Jesus said "Thou shall love thy neighbour as thyself. for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."

The Gita has shown for centuries the way to do one's duty fearlessly to the great majority of people of this land. To see the all pervading spirit face to face one must be able to love the meanest of creation as oneself.

Prophet Mohammed preached brotherhood above all. For him, there was no distinction between one and the other. To him equality was a creed.

To Guru Nanak, there was no Hindu, no Muslim but all human beings created by the same God.

Lord Mahavira preached the path of Ahimsa and love of not only human beings but of animals and birds also.

Lord Budha spent his life time in search of the path for happiness, for all. He gave up his princely life to wander in jungles and mountains to attain Enlightenment and when he accomplished it at Bodhi Gaya, he toured the entire Gangetic valley to propagate his message.

Even King Ashoka, in the midst of his greatest Victory at Kalinga gave up the Path of War, and preached the message of Budha in this Land and all over Asia.

The Torah (Book of law of the Jews) says, "Thou shall love thy Neighbour as Thyself."

All religions thus teach us not only to follow truth, but to love our fellow men and maintain belief in God.

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The custom all over the world clearly shows universality of brotherhood and its close connection with the important religions and sacred books of the peoples inhabiting those countries. This not only shows that Freemasonry respects all religions but proves the tolerance we Freemasons have for all religions. Not only are we brothers to each other in the Masonic sense but brothers who share the same skies, gaze at the same moon and stars and drink water from the same sacred rivers. The message of our fraternity is clear: brotherly love for each other and tolerance of others' customs, traditions and way of life. If we were all to apply this in our daily lives, the strife, the differences and conflicts would take a back seat and we would play a fitting role and apply a healing touch and make the world a happy place in which to live.

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FREEMASONRY AS A FORCE FOR INTEGRATION:

Freemasonry is universal as I mentioned earlier. Its membership in India extends to the four corners of this country from Srinagar to Kanyakumri and from Rajkot to Shillong and to people of different faiths, speaking different languages of our country. You will find in any meeting of a Lodge, members who are Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs or Parsees. They sit side by side and recite the same ritual. These members will be found to belong to different states and areas. The same books of laws are placed on the Altar of every Lodge. The shape and form of the Lodge is the same whether the meeting is in Bombay or Coimbatore, Darjeeling or Mussoorie. Any member of any Masonic Lodge in any part of the country can attend the meeting of any Lodge. Every visiting Mason is welcome to partake at the festive board. The same toasts are given, the foremost being to the President of our Republic.

Freemasonry is and can be a great force in the unification and integration of our country when the divisive forces have raised their ugly head and are corroding the very foundations of our country.

Today is a time of tests and challenges. Freemasonry needs men of goodwill dedication and understanding. These are times when an atmosphere of moral mediocrity is paralyzing man's noblest impulses.

FREEMASONRY AND YOUTH

The mind today is distracted by advancement of technology and other modern discoveries that give transitory pleasures and satisfaction to our senses. We get lost in them and tend to forget the things which bring us lasting peace, happiness and love. The younger generation is swept away and clings to what affords a sensual happiness. There is so much demand on time. Freemasonry tends to take a back seat in the priorities of the new generation. It is up to us to create a pragmatic image of our Fraternity. This can only be done if Freemasonry is seen in every day activities of our busy world. Remember, lamps do not talk, they shine. A light-house sounds no drums yet far out over the waters its friendly spark is seen by the mariner. Let our actions shine more brilliantly. Remember "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he".

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We should be always ready to extend loving kindness and tolerance to others, to forgive enemies, to respect authority, to avoid causing anger and unhappiness, to avoid evil, to work together in harmony. These are pre-requisites of moral laws and these are the important principles entrusted in faith and honour to the Masons of ancient times and have been faithfully transmitted to us. It is our challenge to convey them, pure and unimpaired to future generations of Masons.

We regret to advise that M.W. Bro. Sitaram Jaipuria was called to the Grand Lodge Above on May 28 1985.

INTERVIEW OF GRAND SECRETARY OF ENGLAND FROM THE PAST

Attacks on Freemasonry in the past have always been ignored but the present medias attention in Britain has raised a number of serious questions which resulted in M.W. The Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England commenting that Masonry should perhaps change policy to better inform the public.

The opportunity to do so was recently provided by V.W. Bro. Cdr. M.B.S. Higham, R.N., Grand Secretary of the U.G.L. of England appearing on BBC Radio in a live talk show called "Tuesday Call".

It was felt to be a most valuable experience and the Grand Secretary responded to questions on secrecy and its difference from privacy; the mistaken belief in the misuse of membership to gain advantage; the relationship of religion to Masonry; the time and money that it takes to be a Mason; and on the reasons for rarely reporting Masonic financial charity.

The program received many calls, both critical and favourable but following the program the Grand Secretary has received much correspondence from Masons and non-masons commenting on the program or seeking information.

Summarized from Masonic Square, June 1985.

ARE WE OUR BROTHERS' (AND SISTERS') KEEPERS?

by Right Worshipful Brother Robert E. Juthner
-Senior Grand Warden-
Paper presented at the 1985 Banff Conference
of the Four Western Jurisdictions

CONTINUED FROM DECEMBER ISSUE:

Again, what are we doing about this and what can we do? Is "nothing" the answer? At the 42nd Annual Inter-Provincial Conference, in 1982, M.W. Brother Burnie Kyle, then Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia, in his paper "Our Mission - from example and through leadership" affirmed that... "The Craft is not a secret society but a closely knit group of brethren of leadership... We have the desire to lead our families, our associates and our friends toward a better way of life. We have the responsibility of communicating by our actions these Masonic teachings to our fellow man." How true, but in the ensuing discussion it was overlooked that "our fellow man" is not necessarily just a member of the family, an associate or a friend, but may well be a person whom we never met, and who may even be ranked among our enemies. Let us try and look at this from a global point of view.

Two years earlier, in the same setting, M.W. Brother Douglas Philips, also of B.C., in his paper "A Mandate of Freemasonry" asserted, "I believe, my brethren that we have a message to display to the world... Certainly it is incumbent upon each and every Freemason to spread the truth, improve the morals, and to bring happiness to the community..." The following several pages in the proceedings, recording the ensuing discussion make fascinating reading because, in spite of repeated and valiant attempts by the moderator to focus on what we as members of our Fraternity have as a mandate to take into the world, and what that mandate is, everything was covered from what ought to go on inside the Lodge to beverages in lodge and the wearing of lapel pins. As happens so often, the far-afield-goers had their far-afield-day.

Since the formation of Speculative Freemasonry, which we traditionally associate with the year 1717, and its spreading throughout the nations of the world, lodges and individuals had always had the choice between keeping their Masonry to themselves in the sense of making good men better as long as they were their own members, and taking their Masonic convictions into society for the betterment of everyone. Human nature being what it is, the latter approach backfired at times, and led to such unpleasant repercussions as the papal bull "In Eminenti" of Clement XII in 1738, followed by several other bulls and edicts, discrediting our Order in the eyes of the Roman Catholic. In this regard it must be said that things looked up under the pontificate of the late Pope John XXIII but, those who inform themselves by reading up on the latest developments in Italy and Central Europe will know that we are back to Square One. The French Revolution has been attributed to machinations by Freemasons and Bernard Fay's book, "Revolution and Freemasonry 1680-1800" credits us with many more. There are, however, also entries in the positive side of the ledger, such as the number of founding fathers of the United States, revolutionaries too, or democrats in a nation new to the concept of democracy: the Freemason and Chancellor of the Weimar Republic of Germany during the 1920's Gustav Stresemann. The fact that he had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize did not prevent him to be eventually succeeded by one Adolf Hitler who saw to it that the influence of Masons and of Masonry would cease. The present days Chancellor of Austria is a Freemason, and so are a number of world leaders. The question then is, do you agree with having our Brethren in high places and with having them identified as members of the Order? If yes, why? If no, why not?

How about adverse publicity? Do we have to be afraid of being reminded of the activities of Italys lodge "Propaganda Due", also known as "P-2"? Aside from being accused of subversive actions against the Italian state, its Master Lucio Gelli, together with the Mafia and certain high ranking clergy inside the Vatican have been implicated in having effected the alleged murder of Pope Paul I, the former Albino Luciani, in September of 1978. Our initial reaction would, of course, be that this cannot be true and that, in any event, th P-2 lodge was irregular. Well, not so. It has been removed from the list of lodges of the Grand Orient of Italy with whom we are in amity, but in those days we should still find the Lodge listed in our annual publication of Lodges Masonic of the World.

So, there seem to be pros and cons to political involvement. Where do you stand on this subject? Are there merits in political clout of Freemasonry? Don't just shudder at the thought, and don't think of it in terms of partisan politics in your own City Ward or Provincial or Federal Constituency, but more in terms of providing leadership, guidance and statesmanship where it is sorely needed.

We all know of British and other Royalty who were more than figureheads of the Order, of Canadian Prime Ministers and their equal in other countries, and of Presidents of the United States who endeavored, more or less successfully, to carry the lessons of Freemasonry into their spheres of influence. Generally, we hear little criticism of these personages, even in the case of one of them, a Most Worshipful Brother, who triggered the release of the first fateful atom bomb. The question then is, do we wash our hands of their actions or would we rather that more masons enter the field of politics to improve conditions, at all times basing their decisions on what they learned and accepted within the tyled recesses of the Lodge?

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

To conclude, let us ask, does the fact that since World War I, supposedly the "war to end all wars", and World War II which forty years ago ended in the also supposed triumph of good over evil, forty more wars have been fought in the world to this day, indicate to us that all hopes we may have as Masons to make this a better world, are in vain? Do we just have to accept as inevitable truth that we, individually and corporately, are just a much of toothless tigers, perpetuating an outdated system of morality, veiled in allegories which we ourselves hardly understand, and illustrated by the population at large? Must we be content with attending meetings at which little, if anything, transpires to aid humanity to free itself from the vices which dwell in the gutters of this part of the universe we call the planet Earth?

Or is there a way that "lifts our eyes to the bright morning star whose rising gives peace and salvation to the faithful and obedient of the human race?"

The final question is:

What encouragement can we give our Brethren to venture into the outside world, armed with the Excalibur of Masonry, to do good for the Benefit of all humanity, and thereby become their brothers' and sisters' keepers in the true sense of the scriptures?

THE MAILBAG

I was delighted to see the sensible action which has been taken on the issue of an Airdrie Lodge. The concern shown for Lodges in the surrounding area and the sound discussions which have been held show the care with which Grand Lodge moves on controversial issues.

R.S.

DAYLIGHT LODGE FOR ALBERTA MASONS

"I can't drive at night and rides are harder to get all the time." "My shift-work employment keeps me from regularly attending my, or any Lodge." "I don't like going out at night anymore."

These comments, and many more like it, have been voiced in Calgary for some time now. As more and more firms are running long workshifts, as more and more brethren retire from their employment early, as night driving and parking become a greater and greater hassle, many Brethren are forced to give up their regular attendance at 'Lodge'.

We may be able to solve all these problems, and still enjoy the fraternization and instruction that only Masonry can provide by starting up a DAYLIGHT LODGE in the Calgary area.

This Lodge, as it is presently proposed, would meet during the week, say at 10:00 a.m. hold a full Masonic meeting until about noon, then have a soup and sandwich refreshment period after that. All should be over by about 2:00 p.m.

A am sure this format would be most acceptable to many of the Brethren in the Calgary Masonic area, and would allow many Brethren to enjoy the Masonic Brotherhood that has possibly escaped them in the last few years.

If you would like to get more information please come to a meeting in the Main Temple at 330 - 12th Avenue S.W. on January 15th 1986, at 10:00 a.m. If you are unable to come in person you may like to address a letter through the Grand Lodge Office (330 - 12th Avenue S.W. Calgary AB T2R 0H2) giving me your thoughts on the formation of such a Lodge.
Bob Borland.

SALES ITEM

Conference of the Four Western Jurisdiction Proceedings 1985

These proceedings contain excellent papers given by Grand Lodge Officers of the Four Western Jurisdictions and is now available to the members.

The Office has back copies of these Proceedings up to and including 1965.

Available at the Grand Lodge Office for \$5.00.

Two Masons arrive at your Lodge and wish admission.

One is from Tijuana, Grand Lodge of Baja California and the other from Rapei, Grand Lodge of China. These two brethren have sat in Lodge together but are not known by any members of your Lodge.

- a) Can they attend your Lodge?
- b) How would you know?

ANSWER TO THE OCTOBER QUESTION OF THE MONTH

The first thing I should say is that no one has won the prize offered, for a written 'best' answer to this portion of the Bulletin. If one really examines the incoming mail on these topics it is clear that Alberta Masons do not write to their Editor. Perhaps things will improve now the cold weather is upon us. I should however say that the questions are being discussed between Masons from the comments I receive.

This question related to an objection during the Installation Ceremony.

- a) The Lodge was identified as "established" so the Presiding Officers assisted by two P.M.'s or other competent brethren and the complainant would retire to a private room.
- b) The correctness of the complaint in open Lodge is tied to two situations.
 - i) If the Lodge has not published a notice with the proposed slate of officers, the objector would have no opportunity to know who was being appointed until he hears the name, likewise, he may have been absent for the election. He would be forced to make his objection when he heard the names announced.
 - ii) If the Lodge published the names of the proposed officers, or the objector know he had an objection before the meeting, it would have been more Masonic to have dealt with the issue privately with the Worshipful Master and the same members of the Committee, prior to the meeting rather than creating the disruption to the ceremony, but the objector would have been correct in law.

MURRAY MASONIC LODGE NO. 20, IDAHO

Summarized from the Spokesman Review, Spokane, September 22, 1985.

Murray Lodge is now 99 years old and still in continuous use. This is one of the State's last standing monuments to the gold-boom era of the mid 1800's. Coer d'Alene Lodge No. 20 convened their first meeting at the new Lodge hall in September of 1886.

The Lodge, on the second floor, still has its original carpet, wallpaper, woodwork. The Bible, hand hewn Altar, pedestals and the scrolls depicting the degrees remain.

The Grand Lodge of Idaho is being asked to declare the Lodge Hall a "Masonic Memorial" and attempts are now being made to have it placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A place worth visiting on your way through Northern Idaho.

SPECIAL REPORT

Some Lodges still do not have all the paraphernalia required to dress their Lodge while some may have items available from amalgamating or new purchases.

The Grand Secretary would be pleased to receive a list (not the item), of any items which your Lodge would be willing to allow another Lodge to use.