



Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 52, NO. 3

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

NOVEMBER 1986

VISITING

Visiting Brothers are the links which unite the thousands of Lodges of the world into one harmonious chain.

They afford us the best means of testing our own Masonic Charity and Knowledge, and the integrity of the order in other jurisdictions. They give us objects for relief.

The Lodge which has the most visitors, other thing being equal, is the best informed. It gives the most -- the recipients being worthy objects -- and is most ready to give again.

Nowhere is the visiting brother so welcome; nowhere is he so well entertained, nowhere is his visit so productive of joy to all concerned as in a lodge which understands the principles of an examination and the courtesies to him who personally presents proper vouchers.

-Freemason's Magazine

TRAVEL AND VISITATION

by V.W. Bro. G.M. Girolodi, Brooks Lodge (Acknowledgements: G.L. Bulletin, B.C.; Trestleboard, Nippon Lodge No. 9, Sasebo, Japan; G.L. Bulletin, Alberta, October, 1979)

Throughout the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Alberta there are several causes for concern. One cause which appears to be rather constant is that of travel and visitation.

The Masonic historian, H.L. Haywood, tells us that "Back in the Middle Ages the majority of men did little visiting or traveling except in their own neighborhood. Workers tended to be organized into guilds or fraternities with each confined to its local area. While the modern workman is free from any restrictions and is able to come and go across the nation, the Medieval workman could not; he was tied to his own farm, village or town and he made his friends there or nowhere at all. To men five miles away, he was a stranger and a foreigner. To this general rule - as in so many things - the Freemasons were exceptions. Any Freemason could, and did, come from any other town and even from abroad, and nearly always they came from a distance. While traveling they could visit Freemasons and Lodges anywhere they chanced upon them, and not only could, but were expected to do so, because it was from the traveling

Brethren that the news of the Craft was spread throughout the land."

Haywood further notes that "this freedom to travel and this right to travel were so necessary to Freemasons that without them they could not have carried on their work; being thus an essential, visiting became a Landmark and has continued to be ever since."

As vital as the right of visitation was to our ancient Brethren, it should be even more important to us today in our high-tech, life-in-the-fast-lane existence. We are often too busy with the material things of life to go visiting and sharing fellowship with our Brethren. We are thereby denying ourselves some unique opportunities to experience Freemasonry. I am certain that those of you who have traveled and visited can call to mind many memories and experiences that have enriched you both Masonically and

After I began traveling and visiting other Lodge it soon became apparent that, although Masonry is universal, it was becoming a smaller, closer world the more I traveled and met other Brethren. Once, during a visit to a Lodge in Florida, some 9 to 10 thousand miles from my mother Lodge in Japan, I was surprised to learn that a Past Grand Master from Japan whom I had been in Lodge with on several occasions, many years ago, lived nearby and attended a sister Lodge across town.

At a meeting in Gleichen Lodge a few years ago I had the unexpected pleasure of being re-acquainted with a Brother with whom I had attended an Army P.T. Instructors' course in Ontario some 20 years previously. He was a candidate for the Master Mason Degree that evening and I enjoyed watching him participate.

Besides this personal type of experience there is the experience of being present during the conferring of degrees and of being able to welcome new Brethren into our great Fraternity. It matters little whether the quality of the work be excellent or fair; if the setting be an elegant example or a rented hall; whether the Rite be York, Canadian, American or other; or if the language spoken be foreign: for there is always something to be learned or gained; either as personal knowledge or a great revelation to be shared at a later date with the Brethren of your own Lodge.

The Grand Lodge Bulletin is published by the Grand Lodge of Alberta on each month of the year excepting July and August.

Mailing Address:
330 - 12 Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2R 0H2

Republication approval is granted to all other Jurisdictions but printed acknowledgement of the source is requested.

TRAVEL AND VISITATION CONT'D

Sometimes, however, the experiences occur while traveling to or from a Lodge. I recall accompanying the late W.Bro. George Loveland, on the occasion of his Lodge's 50th Anniversary. As we traveled through the countryside north of the Red Deer River, George, who was over 90 at that time, recounted for us, stories of life in that area during the '30's - stories which if related in any other way just would not have had the same uniqueness.

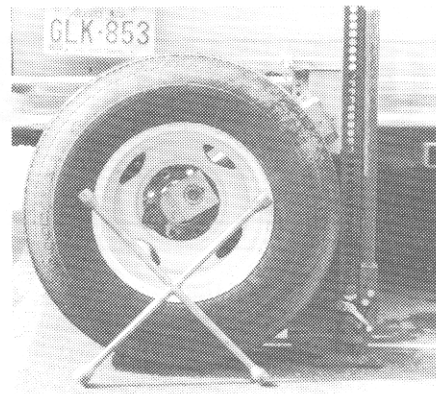
On another occasion several of us were on our way to a Lodge meeting when it suddenly became obvious that we would have to travel along a "gumbo" road right on the tail-end of a rain storm. Three times we had to push the car out of the ditch; consequently we arrived somewhat muddy and disshevelled but, nevertheless, were received as warmly and hospitably as ever. By this time it was raining nearly as hard inside the Lodge as outside, yet the meeting was able to proceed with "undampened" enthusiasm.

Experiences such as I have recounted are seemingly endless and are, indeed, a part of the very fabric of Freemasonry. Finally I wish to tell you of one further traveling experience and its results.

Several year ago, while on the way to visit another Lodge, three members of Cayoosh Lodge No. 173 in Lillooet, B.C. experienced a flat tire. While changing the tire, one of the Brethren was inspired to compose the following:

"I now present to you the Working Tools of a Traveling Mason. They are the Jack; the Wheel Wrench and the Spare.
The Jack is an instrument which lifts the vehicle to allow us to get to the problem.
The Wrench allows us to easily remove the nuts from the wheel.
The spare is to replace the flat tire.
However as we are not Operative Masons but Free and Accepted or Speculative Masons. We, therefore may also apply these tools to our morals.
With this in mind; the Jack teaches us to stand upright and to give support to other Lodges.
The Wrench points out to us that we should, if possible, visit the four divisions of the globe to sit with our Brothers.
From the Spare we learn that no man can travel within himself but must look for assistance from God.

Thus, with fellowship to mankind all over the world and with the help of God the Traveling Mason may hope to visit with all his Brothers."



SHELBY VISIT

On Thursday March 13, 1986 Lethbridge Lodge No. 39 paid a fraternal visit to Shelby Lodge No. 143, Montana, and exemplified the Canadian Rite third degree. 40 members from Southern Alberta attended and joined 106 Masons from Montana to give the largest attendance ever to gather in the Shelby Lodge.

The W.M. of Shelby Lodge No. 143, Worshipful Master John Nicholson, conducted the meeting.

Among those in attendance were M.W. Bro. A.O. Aspeslet, P.G.M., R.W. Bro. P. Lewko, D.D.G.M., District No. 7, R.W. Bro. R. Reach, D.D.G.M., District No. 8 plus 16 Past District Deputy Grand Masters from Alberta, together with M.W. Bro. W. Ross, P.G.M., Bro. W. Cunningham, G. Standard Bearer and L. Hagen, Grand Pursuivant from Montana.



The photograph shows the Canadian Degree team.

MAILBAG

It was moved at a recent meeting of Mayerthorpe Lodge No. 148, and endorsed by all members present, that "Thanks" be conveyed to Grand Lodge for the better print in the Bulletin.

W.G. Smith, Secretary

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

In the Ancient York Rite, reference is made to, "the fabled Upas tree". What is a Upas tree and why is it referred to as "fabled"?

ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Unfortunately, the pens of the brethren have dried up completely and while answers are solicited to the Questions of the Month, few if any are received. Please send responses, even if only to say if this section of the Bulletin is interesting or worthwhile.

ANSWER TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER

This asked if a Brother had to reside in the area of the Lodge in which he wishes to affiliate.

The question arises due to a question on the petition for affiliation which asks, "Length of residence in the District?". This makes it appear that local residence is essential. This is not the case for the overriding statement under Sec. 544 of the constitution states "There are no residence qualifications for Petitions for Affiliation." This has been slightly restricted by a ruling of the Jurisprudence Committee requiring that residence must be in Alberta.

It is hoped that the members of your Lodge found the answer if discussed under Masonic Education.

FROM AFAR

Notes from the 11th December, 1985 letter which would be distributed to all brethren under the Jurisdiction of the United Grand Lodge of England.

- The Loyal Toast: If the National Anthem is played or sung after dinner, it should precede the drinking of the Loyal Toast.

- Anyone who visited Freemasons' Hall from January through April will have found the Library and the Museum closed. This was necessitated by electrical rewiring which was being done at that time.

- Penalties: Demonstrations of how the physical penalties might be moved from the Obligation to other parts of the Craft ceremonies are being arranged in the Provinces. Demonstrations by specific Lodges in London were also so well attended that repeats were required.

- Under the title of Grand Charity there is one particular item of note headed 'Minor Grants'. This is for approximately \$135,000.00 for general charitable purposes.

(The interpretation of 'minor' is interesting and demonstrates the level of contributions to British Masonic charities.)

JOB'S DAUGHTERS

A youth organization supported by Masonry.

This is an organization of young girls who are direct descendants of a Master Mason, adopted daughters by law, step-daughters, step grand-daughters, sisters, half-sisters, step-sisters, sisters-in-law, nieces, grandnieces or first or second cousins of a Master Mason in good standing in the Masonic Jurisdiction under which he holds membership or who was in good standing at the time of his death or so related to his wife or widow or a daughter of a Majority Member. Young girls who belong to the International Order of Job's Daughters are enjoying a special and valuable learning experience. Membership in Job's Daughters means keeping young Masonic relatives actively engaged in fraternal activities. It teaches respect for Masonry, respect for parents and home, loyalty to flag and country and reverence for God.

The girls belong to local units called Bethels. There are 19 officers, five elected and 14 appointed for a six month term. Each Bethel has a Council of volunteer, adult workers dedicated to the purpose of caring for, guiding and directing the young members towards the higher ideals of life. Active Masons are required members on Bethel councils.

As members of the IOJD, the Daughters learn to exercise their talents and develop new ones. They get to know themselves and develop self confidence while contributing to a team effort. The Daughters enjoy many social activities, and learn to help to others by being a part of many activities of charity and good will.

The Daughters in the 19 Bethels in Alberta invite YOU to join them at one of their meetings.

As membership is a problem that the IOJD is facing along with many other concordant bodies, any girl who you feel would benefit from this worthwhile organization can be referred to Mrs. Barb Dyck, Grand Guardian, 273-0479 or Mr. Wayne Dymont, Associate Grand Guardian, 271-2827.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Age may wrinkle you skin, but lack of enthusiasm will wrinkle your soul!"

APOLOGY

The Editor apologies for the confusion caused by his failing to put the correct month in the Grand Master's Proclamation of Higher Ecuation Bursary Month. October is now Bursary Month. The members of the Craft should remember that contributions are acceptable throughout the year. Ongoing competitions between Districts or Lodges for per capita increases can finish at any time. The benefactors of this fund need your help - please remember that envelope.

FROM THE NOTICES

When we were first initiated into Freemasonry we no doubt had some understanding of what we were joining and why. As we attended meetings, met various Brethren and enjoyed the numerous social functions our comprehension grew. As one becomes familiar with the various do's and don'ts and the format of the Craft, a natural inclination is to question its symbolism. Why does Freemasonry veil its teachings in this manner?

A beautiful explanation is contained in "The Builders", by Joseph Fort NEWTON where he quotes a letter from Pike to Gould, both prominent Masonic writers.

"It began to shape itself to my intellectual vision into something more imposing and majestic, solemnly mysterious and grand. It seemed to me like the Pyramids in their loneliness, in whose yet undiscovered chambers may be hidden, for the enlightenment of coming generations, the sacred books of the Egyptians, so long lost to the world; like the Sphinx half buried in the desert.

In its symbolism, which and its spirit of brotherhood are its essence, Freemasonry is more ancient than any of the world's living religions. It has the symbols and doctrines which, older than himself, Zarathustra inculcated; and it seemed to me a spectacle sublime, yet pitiful - the ancient faith of our ancestors holding out to the world its symbols once so eloquent, and mutely and in vain asking for an interpreter.

And so it came at last to see that the true greatness and majesty of Freemasonry consist in its proprietorship of these and its other symbols; and that its symbolism is its soul".
- Roger MacKay, W.M., Redwood Lodge No. 193

("The Builders" is available at the Grand Lodge Office)

A SECRETARY'S DELIGHT

I fell asleep the other night
and while I had my snooze
I dreamed each member stepped right up
and promptly paid his dues.

But when I found it was a dream
I nearly threw a fit
it's up to you to make it true
So won't you please REMIT?

From the Notice of St. John's Lodge No. 25,
Vegreville.

FIAT LUX LODGE OF RESEARCH

The next meeting will be held at Ponoka Lodge Hall on November 29th, 1986 at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome. If you wish to attend the banquet after the meeting (5:00 p.m.) please phone N. Senn, Secretary at 282-8170.

**MASONIC SPRING WORKSHOP 1987
APRIL 10th-12th**

The Committees for next year are already well into the planning stage and in order to develop the "Fun Time" session a different approach has been suggested. Here it is.

HELP WANTED

Individual or group proposals for the Fun Night Entertainment are required. Any sort of light entertainment will be considered and variety and reasonably short length are vital. Can you sing, has the Lodge a choir, have we saw players, tap dancers, sword swallows, snake charmers, or mini plays put on by Lodges.

Send in your proposal to "The Masonic Spring Workshop Committee, c/o Grand Lodge before December 15th so that the Committee has time to select (and laugh). Your contribution will be welcomed with pleasure.

FIRST NOTICE

For the Brethren who can attend in Edmonton on January 1st, 1987, there will be the Grand Master's Levee at the Central Masonic Temple, commencing at 12 noon. This year the Levee will be sponsored by Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

DISTRICT	DATE	TIME	BANQUET	PLACE
No. 2	November 1st	2:30	5:30	Brooks
No. 10	November 1st	1:30	5:30	Acacia/Edmonton
No. 4	November 8th	4:00	6:00	Ponoka
No. 8	November 8th	1:00	6:30	Cowley
No. 9	November 8th	4:00	6:30	Stettler
No. 12	November 8th	1:00	7:00	Central/Edmonton
No. 14	November 8th	2:00	6:00	Delia
No. 6	November 15th	2:00	6:00	Main/Calgary
No. 16	November 15th	2:30	5:00	Strathmore
No. 5	November 18th	1:30	6:30	Alliance
No. 1	November 29th	5:30	7:30	Bowmont/Calgary
No. 20	November 29th	1:00		Acacia/Edmonton

THE HARRY CARR MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Grand Lodge Office has just received a beautifully illustrated booklet informing Masons of the Harry Carr Memorial Library. The Late Bro. Harry Carr, over his lifetime of Masonic involvement and research, used many books which have now been acquired by the Scottish Rite of Dallas, Texas. This extensive library together with memorabilia is now housed as a Special Collection on Reserve. The collection is open to members and visitors and should give a Masonic focus to any Alberta Mason who visit Dallas.