



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 52, NO. 4

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

DECEMBER 1986

## THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTMAS

Down the corridors of time, and reaching our ears today, has travelled the angel's message - "Behold, I bring good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." (Luke 2:10)

What do the good tidings mean, - What does Christmas mean to us? The answer is found in emulating in faith, those shepherds who on hearing the angel's message hastened to Bethlehem, to see the fulfilment of GOD'S promise, and found the CHRIST-child lying in a manger: and with glad hearts they worshiped! The world at large knows it is Christmas - a festive season, of merry-making, of jollity, and happiness; but it ignores Him who is the reason for the festival.

The Son of God who visibly entered human life and experience through His Birth at Bethlehem - 'house of bread', is as it were, left in the rude manger because the unthinking and uncaring bent upon having a good time only, still protest that there is no room for CHRIST in their Inn.

However, to those who have eternity in view, the coming of CHRIST JESUS at Christmas means that God has visited His people to aid them in their earthly pilgrimage; to give them the ability to overcome every evil propensity; to deliver them from the consequences of sin, assuring penitents of forgiveness; and to re-affirm to them their citizenship in that celestial kingdom, not made with hands. These are they who at Christmas-tide especially, with hearts full of joy and thanksgiving, offer worship and high praise to their LORD JESUS CHRIST, the Author of their Salvation.

By taking humanity upon Himself, JESUS has restored to our defaced image its lost beauty, and re-invested it with heavenly dignity. Through CHRIST this human nature no more is poor; but glorious, and by divine grace is again capable of the highest, noblest, and purest aspirations and deeds.

"Though CHRIST a thousand times, In Bethlehem be born

If He's not born in thee, Thy soul is still forlorn".

- Angelus Silesius

V.W.Bro. The Reverend J.H. Eden Phillpotts, Grand Chaplain.

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### BANFF SPRING WORKSHOP

Excerpt from the Theme Address given by Bro. Tink Robinson at the Masonic Spring Workshop at Banff, 1986.

#### On Membership and Lodge Life

The Lodges who are losing members must examine their own members' personal growth record. Be reflective, seek help, ask yourselves this question -- "Are we practising what Masonry has to teach us, or are we in a rut and resistant to helping ourselves to make the changes necessary for our survival?" When senior Lodge members mistake rigid thinking for wisdom, they bury their lodges in the past and close their doors to the light of the present day. These brethren would not consider ploughing a field the way our pioneering ancestors did, or travelling south for the winter in a covered wagon. Yet so often the Lodges with problems are being operated like an "Old Boys" club, with a dogmatic attitude that runs directly in contradiction to the ideals that Masonry espouses.

We see some country lodge closing down because their towns have closed down. We observe some city lodges having problems because they have not developed the fellowship and neighbourliness that is a natural part of a country lodge. But, the bottom line when it applies to a dropping attendance versus a healthy membership, is that the true spirit of masonry is not being practised and, therefore, new members are losing interest, or are simply not being attracted to ask for a petition.

Remember, brethren, the Spirit of Masonry is fellowship. It is a feeling of belonging. It is a feeling of being part of something worthwhile. If a Lodge insists on allowing dull, poorly run business meetings and doesn't know how to serve up an evening of interesting topics and some good old fashioned laughter, then it has signed its own death certificate. Ask yourself -- What kind of person do you like to be around; one who makes you feel good and worthy of his friendship, or a sanctimonious grouch, who can't laugh at himself let alone laugh with you. Lodges are the reflection of their members' attitudes within them. It's just plain common sense. You, the members, are the spirit of your Lodge. In which kind of Lodge do you belong? What can YOU do to make it a happier and more prosperous place of Light.

### REPORT FROM THE C4 COMMITTEE FORMED AS A RESULT OF TABLING THE MOTION TO RESTRUCTURE THE GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

The initial meeting of the C4 committee was held on Tuesday, September 30th, 1986. The main purpose for this meeting was to determine the parameters for the committee and to develop a timeline for its deliberations.

The committee considers its first priorities to be:

- to communicate to each of the lodges, within the jurisdiction, through the District Deputy Grand Master, the importance of discussing this particular motion which could have a significant impact upon this jurisdiction in the future.

- to encourage members, a group of members, and individual lodge or a group of lodges etc., to submit comments, regarding this motion, to the committee in order to assist it in its mandate.

The Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Norman F. Oslund, will be directing a further letter to all lodges requesting that some portion of future Lodge meetings be focused towards giving the brethren an opportunity to discuss this important motion.

While January 31st, 1987 was originally set as the deadline for the submission of comments, briefs, etc. the committee would appreciate material at anytime, preferably as soon as possible.

Please direct your correspondence to the Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Alberta, 330 - 12th Avenue S.W., Calgary Alberta. T2R 0H2

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How is the sign of assent (voting sign of the Order) given in Lodge and where did it originate?

### ANSWER TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Answer to October Question of the Month which asked when it is appropriate to smoke at the Festive Board. It has become the custom that it is inappropriate to smoke prior to the toast to the Queen and The Craft. The important thing is that permission to smoke should be given by the Junior Warden who is in charge of the Festive Board. To give permission to smoke is not to recommend it and in fact some lodges announce that "those who MUST smoke, may" which is more a sign of non-approval but due to the tolerance of Freemasonry, no objection is made. Due to the increasing number of non-smokers, lodges should give consideration to both groups of brethren and possible consider smoking guidelines which would be satisfactory for all brethren attending meetings.

**GRAND LODGE OF ALBERTA, A.F. & A.M.  
BENEVOLENCE FUND**

The Masonic Benevolent Fund of Alberta was established by a resolution adopted at the Grand Lodge communication of June, 1919. Initial funding came from the merging of three then existing charitable funds, later supplemented by a Special Assessment and annual assessments which were continued to the end of 1964. There have been no assessments since 1964.

The Fund was administered by the Committee on Benevolence until 1935. At the Communication of 1935 the Committee was discontinued and replaced by the Board of Benevolence, with six elected members, two members appointed by the Grand Master, the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary. It reports annually, through its President, to the Grand Lodge Communication.

The regulations governing the use of benevolence funds are printed in the Constitution (Sections 400 to 413). The Board meets four times per year to deal with requests for assistance. However, emergency requests do not have to await a regularly scheduled meeting. The President is empowered to take interim action (subject to later approval by the Board) to give aid. If he is unsure of the propriety of what he proposes to do, he will consult the Grand Master and any members of the Board that he can reach in reasonable time by telephone.

The Board of Benevolence must depend upon the Lodges to bring cases of distress to its attention and to provide the documentation necessary for the Board to make a fair decision as to the amount of help that is needed. This duty falls mainly on the Worshipful Master and the Lodge Secretary.

The names of the beneficiaries are confidential. Copies of applications and supporting comments are given to the members of the Board with the names and addresses blacked out; the original documents are kept on file in the Grand Lodge Office, and are not available except in extraordinary circumstances. Thus we protect the privacy and sensitivities of our distressed Brethren, their widows and their orphans.

It has always been, and continues to be, an expectation that the Lodge requesting assistance for a qualified, distressed person be prepared to carry an appropriate share of the costs. It is realized that many small Lodge do not have the money to contribute more than a small part of these costs, but those Lodge that can, should be willing to meet up to one half of the amount required. Not many can, but every Lodge is urged to do its best to share in relieving distress to the utmost of its ability.

The board hopes that all Lodges share the opinion that, although they must be prudent in the use of resources, there is no need to be niggardly. The

aim is to relieve the distressed. This can best be done if the Board has the understanding and cooperation of all Lodges. Lodges seeking advice and guidance should not hesitate to consult the Grand Secretary. He is thoroughly qualified to assist you.

Copies of form No. 53, Petition For Assistance, are available through the Lodge Secretaries or the Grand Lodge Office. The form must be completed in full and the required motion must be brought before a Lodge before requests may be considered by the Board of Benevolence. Upon completion of these requirements, the form is to be sent to the Board of Benevolence through the Office of the Grand Secretary.

Lodges and members are reminded that at no time should a Petitioner be sent directly to the Grand Lodge Office. It is the responsibility of the Lodge to conduct any investigation which may be necessary and to complete the required form No. 53.

The time taken in processing the Petition should not delay the Lodge in providing any urgently required assistance. The Lodge must meet the immediate needs until the Board as a whole, or the President, can determine the final amount of assistance to be provided.

All grants from the Board of Benevolence are issued in the form of a Grand Lodge cheque made out to the Lodge. Direct payments to the Petitioner are not normally allowed. It is the Lodge's responsibility to manage the distribution of the grant to the petitioner in the manner which is determined by the Board to be in the best interests of that Petitioner.

If the Lodge has, prior to receiving funds from the Board, issued funds in excess of the amount agreed as the Lodge's portion, the Lodge will recover that excess upon receiving the first cheque.

#### **AIRDRIE MEETINGS**

Mosaic Lodge No. 176 of Calgary, held a special Lodge meeting on October. The meeting was held in the City of Airdrie and newspaper advertisements were published inviting Airdrie Masons to the meeting. Approximately 40 brethren attended the meeting and the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden and other Grand Lodge Officers were also present. The meeting consisted mainly of debate on the pros and cons of establishing a Lodge in Airdrie followed by a slide presentation of Alberta Lodge halls and their histories. It was an excellent and interesting first meeting to be held in the City of Airdrie. Now the issue is in the hands of the Airdrie brethren and W.Bro. Gary Giesbrecht, of Airdrie, (phone 948-7216) has agreed to act as contact person.

**FIRST THOUGHTS OF A NEWLY RAISED MASTER MASON**

I would like to share my thoughts with you on being newly raised to the Degree of Master Mason, and the newest member of Strathmore Lodge.

Looking back on why I petitioned for membership I find it difficult to pinpoint. My father was a Mason from about 1959 until his death in 1980 and a Past Master of King George Lodge in Calgary. He was always very secretive about Masonry and until the time of my initiation I thought that I knew nothing about Masonry. That was not the case of the examples he set were clearly those of Masonic teachings. The respect I have for him and the respect he showed and received from others, inspired me to try to become the type of person he had been. For several years after his death I considered joining the Craft but had no idea how to go about it or who to ask.

In talking one evening with Brother Gallucci, whom I had known for many years, I discovered that he was a mason, and in fact had been sponsored by my father. I told him that I would like to become a Mason, and he offered to sponsor me.

My first night at Lodge with numerous introductions and my trying to remember names together with the long wait in the outer hallway made the initiation ceremony itself seem easy in comparison. The most difficult part of degree work for me was not in memorizing the work but in speaking before an audience. It is a fear I hope to overcome. The most impressive part of Degree work was in being raised. The reading of Ecclesiastes, still fresh in my mind from the reading for a deceased Brother, really struck home. It was a beautiful piece of work, and one that I will never forget.

I tried to sum up what I felt were the most important parts of the degree and see if they coincided with Virtue, Morality, and Brotherly Love. I recalled the obligations and what they stressed; honour and virtue above rank and fortune, acting on the square, and the Five Points of Fellowship.

The Working Tools of the three Degree's each with their special lessons to be applied to our morals. The Junior and Senior Wardens lectures, which contained complete explanations and inner meanings related to every fixture in the Lodge Room, from tiled floor to the Stars on the ceiling. The Volume of the Sacred Law to guide us; the Tassels representing Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice are most impressive attributes we should cultivate in ourselves. Every piece of work has something to tell us. The genuine secrets of a Master Mason are the pure and blameless life. I see the true Mason as neither a spectator nor a memorizer, but one who works to build a better world by first improving himself.

Brother Doug Picken, Strathmore No. 53

**DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES**



**of the GRAND LODGE OF ALBERTA**

**Freemasonry as a Society is**

- Charitable** – it is devoted to the welfare and happiness of mankind.
- Benevolent** – teaching that the good of others is of primary concern.
- Communal** – recognizing that Society is made up of individuals, it impresses upon its members the principles of personal righteousness and responsibility, enlightens them in those things which make for human welfare; and inspires those feelings of charity and goodwill toward all mankind leading to practical application of those cherished principles.
- Educational** – its authorized ceremonies teach a system of morality and brotherhood based upon Sacred Law.
- Religious** – it acknowledges a one and caring Deity. Neither secular nor theological, reverence for a Supreme Being is ever present in its ceremonies. The Volume of the Sacred Law is open upon its altars whenever a Lodge is in session.
- Social** – insofar as it encourages the meeting together of men for the purpose of its primary objectives, education, worship and charity.

**To these several ends**

- It Teaches** – and stands for the worship of a Supreme Being; truth and justice; fraternity and philanthropy; enlightenment and liberty – civil, religious and intellectual.
- It Charges** – each of its members to be true and loyal to the government of the country to which he owes allegiance, and to be obedient to the law of any state in which he may be.
- It Believes** – that the attainment of these objectives is best accomplished by laying a broad basis of principle upon which men of every race, country, sect and opinion may unite rather than by setting up a restricted platform upon which only those of certain races, creeds and opinions can assemble. Holding these beliefs, and in the knowledge that the true Freemason will act in civil life according to his individual judgements and the dictates of his conscience.

**This Grand Lodge Affirms**

- Its Continued Adherence** – to that ancient and approved rule of Freemasonry which forbids the discussion in Masonic meetings of creeds, politics or other topics likely to excite personal animosities.
- Its Dedication** – to those basic Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief and truth; and by their consistent practice, the lessening of the aggregate of human suffering and the promotion of the true and lasting happiness of Mankind.
- Its Conviction** – that it is not only contrary to the fundamental principles of Freemasonry, but dangerous to its unit strength, usefulness and welfare, for Masonic bodies to take action or attempt to exercise pressure or influence for or against any legislation, or in any way attempt to procure the election or appointment of government officials, or to influence them, whether or not members of the Fraternity, in the performance of their official duties.

**WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?**

Freemasonry is a way of life. It is fraternal in organization, religious in character, based on the belief in the fatherhood of God, brotherhood of man and immortality of the soul.

Freemasonry is not a secret society as many surmise. It is a voluntary association wherein the interested one comes of his own free will and accord.

Freemasonry is not a religion as many claim it to be.

Freemasonry, in its every effort and purpose strives to do charitable work within its membership and for society and through its teachings, seeks to make good men better men. The lessons by our ritual are based on the Golden Rule.

It is a band of men bound together in the bonds of brotherly love and affection that extends throughout the world.

Freemasonry, is:

- kindness in the home.
- courtesy in society.
- resistance toward the wicked.
- help for the weak.
- forgiveness for the penitent.
- love for one another.
- honesty in business.
- fairness in work.
- pity and concern of the unfortunate.
- trust in the strong.
- and above all.
- reverence and love for God.

– Freemasonry is a way of life –

**THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE**

**R.W.Bro. "O.C." Smith**

Let us present six little words which may help a Brother who finds himself a member of this important committee. WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY and HOW. The following will give you an idea of some of the questions that spring from these key words:

- WHO - is he? (not just his name.)  
does he know?  
does he associate with?
- WHAT- are his reasons for petitioning?  
is his profession?  
is his standing in the community?  
is his general reputation at work?  
is his attitude toward GOD?
- WHEN- did he become interested in Freemasonry?  
did he come to this district?
- WHERE-does he live?  
did he come from?  
does he spend his leisure time?
- WHY - is he seeking membership?  
did he wait until now?  
is he petitioning you Lodge?
- HOW - does he intend to serve Freemasonry?  
does he intend to conduct himself?  
has he lived in the past?

In addition to the above suggestions there are a few DON'Ts which would be considered.

- DON'T - look at a man and think he is all right.
- DON'T - think he will reform.
- DON'T - be guided by his own reports.
- DON'T - be afraid to ask questions.
- DON'T - report until you are satisfied.
- DON'T - leave your work of investigation until the last day.
- DON'T - let the other two-thirds of the committee do your work.
- DON'T - forget he may be Master of the Lodge some day.

From Masonic Light, S.C.

**SECRETARIES FOR MEETINGS**

A number of Grand Lodge Committees require a secretary to take minutes of meetings. These meetings may be held in Edmonton, Red Deer or Calgary and volunteers in each of these centres would be welcomed with pleasure. If you are interested in assisting these committees through your skills please contact the Grand Secretary.

**BULLETIN COMMITTEE**

The Grand Lodge Bulletin Committee has two additional members who were not listed last month - Bro. Wes Thomas and R.W. Bro. Al Teuling. Both these brethren are to be thanked for their willing help.

Alberta Masons and friends of "O.C." were saddened to learn of his passing on April 29th, 1986, just a few days after having celebrated his 101st birthday on April 25th.

"O.C." was born in Deloraine, Manitoba, on April 25th, 1885, and entered Freemasonry on December 17th, 1907 in Forest Lodge No. 393 G.R.C.. He came to Alberta in 1911 as a bank manager at Wainwright, and moved to Hanna, Castor, Okotoks and finally to Calgary in 1934.

During his sojourn, "O.C." affiliated with Buffalo Park Lodge No. 44, Hanna No. 78 (Charter Member and Worshipful Master 1914) Beaver Lodge No. 56 and finally Zetland Lodge No. 83, where he served as Worshipful Master in 1943.

He received his 50 year Jewel in 1958, 60 year Bar in 1968, 70 year Bar in 1978 and had he lived until 1988, he would have received his 80 year bar, which is an event very rarely attained in Freemasonry.

"O.C.", was a member of Calgary Lodge of Perfection (Past Thrice Puissant Grand Master), Delta Chapter Rose Croix (Past Most Wise Sovereign), a Charter Member of Southalta Consistory, and a 33rd Degree Mason with 50,60,70 year jewels).

He served as Junior Grand Warden in 1940 and D.D.G.M. of District No. 18 in 1848. A well loved brother whose memory lives on.

**FROM THE NOTICES**

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**ALL OFFICERS**

As an officer of the Lodge, your first responsibility is to the best interests of the Lodge. It is therefore your duty to arrange your public and private affairs insofar as is possible to permit your punctual and regular attendance at all meetings and degree rehearsals.

If your absence is unavoidable, it is your duty to notify the Worshipful Master or other officer in charge as soon as possible so that he may arrange for your replacement.

If circumstances are such that you will not be able to attend for an extended period of time, it would be better that you step down rather than disrupt the efficiency of Lodge affairs by your inactivity.

Each officer ought to be familiar with the Constitution, the By-Laws of his Lodge and the Ritual. He must, of course, be able to execute with confidence those portions of the ritual pertaining to his office.

It is the responsibility of each officer to learn the specific duties of the office to which he has been elected or appointed and to carry out those duties to the best of his abilities.

From the notice of Kitchener Lodge No. 95

**BREAKING THE DOLLAR BARRIER  
A NEW YEAR'S THOUGHT**

No this is nothing to do with the measurement of air resistance, but just what it says, a measurement of money. do you remember in the old days when the collection at Lodge benefited by a dime? Then gradually as inflation reared its ugly head, we went up to a quarter and then up to fifty cents. Finally most of us were glad to help those in need with a dollar bill. How long have we been putting in that one dollar bill? For too long, one fears. Although inflation is not so bad, we still have it, and from time to time we ought to re-assess all that we do. The one dollar of ten years ago should be at least two dollars these days. It is only the generous donations of those who put five or ten dollars into our collections that help us to keep our totals high and allow us to support those in need. Have you thought of breaking the Dollar Barrier?

Adapted from London Grand Rank Quarterly Bulletin August 1986.

**IN MEMORY**

On August 10th, a memorial plaque was unveiled to the memory of V.W.Bro. Byron Moore who died tragically in the Hinton train disaster. V.W. Bro. Moore was a Past Master of Vermilion Lodge No. 24 and had been Secretary for a number of years. Present at the ceremony, in the museum site of Vermilion Provincial Park, were many Brethren including M.W. Bro. N. Oslund, the Grand Master and R.W. Bro. R. Taylor, D.D.G.M. of District No. 10.



M.W.Bro. N. Oslund; The plaque on a caboose; R.W. Bro. R. Taylor.

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

"The mystic bond of brotherhood makes all men one"

Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881)

**CASCADE LODGE NO. 5**

A regular commication of said Lodge was held at Masonic Hall in Anthracite on the evening of May 25, A.D. 1888, A.L. 5888 at which communication Brother James Brogden DDGM assumed the East.

Bro. R.G. Brett was placed in the West and Bro. D.H. Strachan in the South.

By direction of DDGM the letter of dispensation was then read, after which the officers of the new Lodge were called to the East, and were each invested with the Jewel of his Office, as follows:

- Bro. H. Ransford, W.M.
- Bro. R.G. Brett as proxy for W.M. Arnott S.W.
- Bro. D.M. Strachan, J.W.
- Bro. A. McNeil, S.D.
- Bro. D. Keefe, J.D.

The several officers then assumed their proper stations, the W.M. on the right of the DDGM in the East.

The Lodge was then opened by the DDGM on the third degree of Masonry and the charges delivered to the officers and brethren.

Extract from the Historic Register of Cascade Lodge No. 5 which will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 1988. Keep the year in mind.

**HANDS ACROSS THE BORDER**

This year the annual pilgrimage of the Grand Master of British Columbia and of many brethren from his and sister jurisdictions to the historic site of Barkerville (of goldrush fame), which culminated in a meeting of Cariboo Lodge No. 4, B.C.R., a banquet and a church parade, was attended by a delegation from Alberta. Shown in the picture are, from left to right: R.W. Bro. Tony Rocchio, DDGM No. 3, R.W. Bro. Robert Juthner, DGM, and R.W. Bro. Charles Young, PDDGM and Secretary of District No. 3.

