



Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 53, NO. 4

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

APRIL 1988

1988 EASTER GREETINGS

HAPPY EASTER to all the brethren of Alberta, and to all recipients of this monthly bulletin. I am thankful that this season affords me the opportunity to again greet you, in terms not only of Christian love but also of Masonic Fraternal Greetings.

Christ's resurrection is the great and unique Christian faith event, and brings to us that the hope of an everlasting new life.

Resurrection or becoming awake again after physical death is a truly ancient theme. In Biblical times some Jewish sects accepted it and others denied it. The Essenes and the Pharisees seem to have accepted it with the idea "that the essential self (or soul) of an individual is awakened from the sleep of death shortly after the latter occurs, or after the dissolution of the body", (The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible). The writer of Ecclesiastes 12:7 writes, "The dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it".

In today's world, resurrections take place all the time - resurrections in the sense that that which once was dead has come back to life. Statements such as 'He resurrected that idea or practice', show us continually changing aspects of society and life styles. We should all bear in mind the necessity for change in our lives, and re-dedicate ourselves to our individual religious faith, that we may practise out of the Lodge those great moral duties which are inculcated in it, and with reverence study and obey God's great laws.

God's blessing to all.

Donal R. Stewart, Grand Chaplain.

CELEBRATION

Hanna Lodge No. 78 will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary on May 2nd, 1988. Registration will take place at 2:30 p.m. at the Hanna Masonic Temple.

A social hour for all attending Masons and their escorts will commence at 5:00 p.m. in the basement of the Hanna Masonic Temple with the banquet held in the United Church Banquet Hall starting at 6:30 p.m. R.W.Bro. Jim Lore will be the guest speaker at the banquet.

Any former members of Hanna wishing to take part in this important event are asked to contact W.Bro P.H. Larson, Box 989, Hanna, Alberta, T0J 1P0.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

The Winter Olympics are now history but the good feelings linger on. The Calgary Masonic Temple was dressed with a suitable greeting for the many visitors who came.

The greeting sign will be available for other Masonic events and Masons will have a small reminder of the 1988 Winter Olympics for the future.

FROM AFAR LEADERSHIP

SOUSA says of the composition of a great band, "Give me seven or nine musicians, and the rest of the sixty can 'toot'." It is much the same in a lodge. One of the first needs of an effective lodge is just about the same number of men who have actually mastered the art of doing something. They can make things go, because they know how to do things and have the will to do them. The rest of the lodge is like the sixty in the band that 'toot'. That is, they follow the leadership of those who are carrying the tune. One question which every lodge must face is, "What are we doing to train leaders for the future?" A large number of Masons would agree that the greatest need of their lodge is ten men who know how to do something and are willing to work.

The Cabletow, Grand Lodge of the Philippines



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

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

The lines "to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns" were taken from another source. Who originally wrote them, and where?

ANSWER OF THE QUESTION OF THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

The question asked was "What was the MAJOR disadvantage of a Worshipful Master remaining in office rather than being reelected and reinstalled."

The answer is simply, ONE VOTE AT GRAND LODGE, and it could be a deciding vote.

A Worshipful Master in his second year of remaining in the East is still a Worshipful Master.

The Worshipful Master who passes through the reelection and reinvestiture becomes a Past Master and receives a vote at Grand Lodge - he receives a second vote as Worshipful Master. This can happen only once. In any third term or more there are still only two votes.

An interesting problem arises in the Installation Ceremony for he is required as his first duty to present himself with his Past Master's Jewel!

QUESTION OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY

The question on the nature of a Lewis's has generated an excellent response and accompanying a letter from M.W.Bro. W.C. Graves was a short paper he had presented on this topic. The final component of his paper was a ceremonial speech for the presentation of a Lewis Jewel to the first initiated son of a Freemason. This Jewel is given in the Grand Jurisdiction of Quebec.

Another answer was received from W.Bro S. Wheatley of Jubilee Lodge No. 173 who related "Lewis" to the "Rite of Masonic Baptism" performed in France on the children of Freemasons who were known as *louveveau*. This is thought by some authorities to be another source of meaning.

The Editor thanks all who responded.

QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

All great truths begin as blasphemies.

George Bernard Shaw (Annajanska)

NICKEL A DAY CLUB

What is this strange organization that is starting up in Harmony Lodge No. 75 in Sedgewick? What can its mysterious purpose be? That doesn't sound very much to belong. What does one get out of it? Five cents a day doesn't look a costly sum to belong to this organization.

Harmony Lodge looked at its donations to the Higher Education Bursary Fund, divided it by its membership and found that the figure was not very high. It also knew that contributions varied as in all voluntary donation schemes. What would the Lodge do to raise its contribution to this worthwhile charity? After all, this is the ONLY Masonic charity in the province, and while financial charity is not the only method of professing charity, we have to be careful not to totally exclude it. The MHEBF can be operated only by money. It is also known that not everyone can have "given at the office" for this one.

The question seemed to be, "What could a reasonable person afford? The Lodge came up with "A Nickel A Day".

This is such a small amount that if you drop a nickel, it is hardly worth looking for it. If you try to think of what it will buy, it is extremely difficult to think of anything. In a week that nickel adds up to just 35 cents, the cost of one daily paper. With 35 cents you can't buy a cup of coffee, or a chocolate bar. After a month it has grown to a mere \$1.40. You can go on a bus for this but you can't see a show; you can't buy a drink; you can't eat a meal. This nickel a day is really a small amount - how can it help?

If each Mason in your lodge contributed a nickel a day to the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund do you realize how much that would add up to? If all 13,055 Masons in Alberta (1987 Proceedings) contributed this trivial amount it would add up to \$238,906 this year - equivalent to 265 Bursaries of \$900.00.

What a huge number of needy young people in higher education we could help. How much we could contribute to the next generation. What good feeling that should generate in each one of us and how much goodwill that could generate ALL FOR A NICKEL A DAY.

Harmony Lodge has had a wonderful idea, Can we all join the club?

(For the mathematicians, see back page.)

MERIDIAN LODGE NO. 129, STONY PLAIN

Meridian Lodge has changed its home, effective February 1st, 1988. They have cleaned-up, done some remodeling and are now furnishing their new meeting place at 4914 - 50 Avenue, Stony Plain.

There will be a Cornerstone Laying Ceremony and Dedication on March 30th at 6:30 p.m. Please try to attend and encourage the brethren of Meridian.

REGIONAL MEETING

January 16th saw the first of the 1988 Regional Meetings in the Province. The meeting was held in King George Lodge Hall in Calgary. 65 brethren were in attendance. The meeting started with the completion of the questionnaires on a variety of Masonic topics relating to the individual. The responses were later summarized for all present.

The major activity was the discussion of three major areas related to Masonry: Is administration overshadowing Masonry?; Does dignity and high importance still prevail in the Craft; and the impact of benevolence and charity on our Lodges.

The outcomes of discussion were as follows: The general agreement was that "business" should be short and more time be devoted to Masonry. Although he should have support from the GM, DDGM, Secretary and the Past Masters. The Master is responsible to ensure this happens. There are pamphlets available on the duties of a Master and the other officers and the Master's duties are spelled out in the Constitution.

Preparation for the business meeting is essential. The Master's failure in doing this results in long meetings. He should be aware of everything that can arise at each meeting. The Examining Committee should be sure the Master-elect is familiar with ALL the duties of his office. Every officer has the duty to train his successor. This is often being forgotten.

Dignity still exists in the Craft but many thought it had deteriorated. Some thought Masons should provide role models but that we are too modest. Others felt we should conceal our good works as we are admonished in the general charge. It was agreed that good manners and good taste are essential for the festive board and that the lodge meeting should not be too informal. Good work brings dignity.

It was noted that you cannot gain recognition of the good works of the Craft if no one knows that it is Masons who are doing the charitable work.

Fee structure was discussed and some felt that Masonry was too cheap. Others pointed out that you cannot buy dignity and it comes from within the individual.

Research and Education was discussed and there were complaints it dwelt too much in the past and not enough on the present and future. The appearance of Lodge Halls was an important aspect that was inadequately considered.

Those discussing Benevolence and Charity were handicapped by the feeling that they lacked knowledge on the topic. There is an urgent need for more information. There was considerable difference in view ranging from those who recommended a separate fee charged annually to build the Benevolent fund to others who thought it should be expended and discontinued. Some felt benevolence

was best at the local level but it was pointed out that some small lodges would need Grand Lodge help.

Many felt there should be greater visibility of charitable works similar to that in the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. It was felt that "a cause" would cement the fraternity and that with "a cause" greater dignity would arise and membership would increase. Some felt that charity should be personal without proclaiming the fact in any way. It was noted that many additional opportunities arise for benevolence that does not cost money.

These comments are published with the hope that your lodge will discuss the same issues critically in an informal setting and take positive action to remedy any areas of concern that result from such discussion.

Summary provided by R.W.Bro. J. Lore.

OLYMPIC RECORD

So often we are forced to read books which print "Masonic Firsts". We seldom know someone near to us who has personally set a record.

We now have such a person in Alberta, for Bro. Joe Chase, of Perfection Lodge No. 9, Calgary, carried the Olympic torch in Edmonton and became the oldest person to carry it as he celebrated his 101st birthday on the same day.

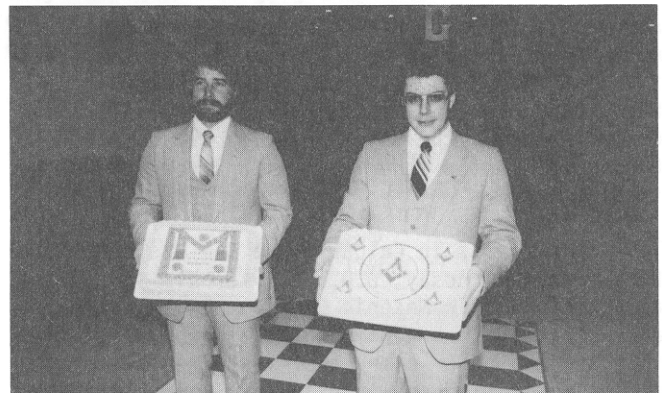
The Masons of Alberta salute Bro. Joe Chase and wish him continued health and happiness.

PROVERB OF THE MONTH

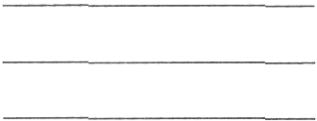
Our own actions are our security, not others' judgments.

NORTH STAR LODGE NO. 4

North Star Lodge No. 4's April meeting saw Stephen and Greg McCulley receive their third degrees in Masonry. It was a proud moment for their Father, W.Bro. Jim McCulley, a Past Master of Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2, who took the part of King Solomon in the degree.



Shown are the two brothers, Stephen on the right and Greg on the left holding Masonically decorated cakes. These were decorated for the occasion by Bro. Stephen McCulley.



STAMP

GRAND LODGE OF ALBERTA
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CALGARY, ALBERTA
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THE BUILDERS

(This is No. 3 in a series of 4)

The excitement of the First Masonic Lodge meetings in Calgary behind them, the Brethren settled down to building their new lodge.

Although there were many donations to outfit the lodge, the first recorded donation was by Bro. James White, of Journeyman Lodge, Edinburgh, Scotland, of the Tyler's sword. Bro. White won the sword in a competition against 36 antagonists while serving in the Royal Midlothian Yeomanry Cavalry. Bro. White closes his letter presenting the sword with the words: "I will then know that one of my hard-won laurels found a fitting place of rest and most honorable duty."

At the same meeting, the lodge also thanked Bro. Vortier for his kindness in donating the V.S.L.; Bro. McNeil, Chaplain, for the Altar; Bro. Martin for a number of Lodge Aprons and Bro. Murdoch for the columns holding the three lesser lights. During the following years other furnishings were donated by the Brethren such as the hand-tooled Secretary's case by Bro. Carson, who was Junior Warden at the time, and the rough and perfect ashlar presented by Bro. Walter Alford of Belleville, Ont., who built the Calgary Post Office.

As all lodges need to initiate members for the Order to prosper, Bow River did its share. The first application for initiation accompanied by the "appropriate fee of \$10.00" was received from Mr. J.B. Brader, Calgary, Publisher, aged 30 years, recommended by Bro. Murdoch and Bro. Campbell". This was the first read out of the ten applications received.

Two application for affiliation were also received. The first read out was from Bro. William McGilvery, Calgary, Carpenter, from Petrolia Lodge, G.R.C.

The first degree work performed in Calgary was on Monday evening, March 17, 1884. The Brethren conferred the First Degree on three brethren.

Among its firsts was Bow River's dispensation to move the installation of Officers from December 27, 1884 to January 12, 1885 at which meeting W. Bro. Murdoch was installed in the "Oriental Chair." After the installation ceremony Bro. Neuman presented the lodge with a very handsome tracing board.

Two more firsts in Calgary were the dispensations by R.W. Bro. Lindsay, D.D.G.M., for all Masons to appear clothed in Masonic Regalia while attending a Masonic Ball in Boynton Hall in December of 1885. The other being the first recorded time when, as all lodges would like to do from time to time, an edict from the Grand Master was read and then it was "moved by W.Bro. Murdoch and seconded by the S.S. 'that the document be consigned to the waste paper basket.'"

Of particular interest to Calgarians is the February 17, 1887 petition for initiation of "Samuel H. Livingstone, Calgary, age 53 years, occupation rancher of the usual tenor." His farm was located under the present Glenmore Lake. Compare the distance from there to 8th Avenue and 4th Street S.E. when there were no streetcars, buses or autos, to today's ease of attending lodge.

I conclude this section with a report on "that last and greatest trial." In early April of 1886 W. Bro. Murdoch referred in his diary to a man called Cochrane becoming ill. Shortly thereafter he mentioned going to Cochrane's place and bringing his horse home to care for. A curt entry in W. Bro. Murdoch's diary dated Sunday, April 18, 1865 says "Fine all day. Attended the funeral of Cochrane. Masonic Honors. Rink at night." Bow River Lodge's minute book entry for that date reads; Sunday, April 18, 1886 - Emergent Meeting. 10:00 a.m. Called to order by W. Bro. Lindsay. It was explained to the brethren that this was for the purpose of a Masonic Funeral. The Worshipful Master then explained the object was to attend the funeral of Bro. Fritz Cochrane." This is the first recorded Masonic funeral in Calgary but, unfortunately, the exact location of Bro. Cochrane's grave is unknown at this writing.

Submitted by Bro. Don Jackson, King George Lodge No. 59.

HOW DUSTY IS YOUR TROWEL?

When you were made a Mason
The Master gave to you
A silver trowel to work with
For you had work to do.

To cement the bonds of friendship
And smooth a troubled way
To build a house of kindness
To live in every day.

To help a fallen brother,
Admonish him with care
To pat him firmly on the back
And help him do his share.

Now, my Brother, where's your trowel?
Has it been stashed away?
To gather dust from lack of use?
Saved for another day?

Remember now the lessons taught,
From these we must not shirk
So knock the dust from off your trowel
And put it back to work!

Robert W. Klaiber, P.M.
Rio Linda Lodge No. 786, California

NICKEL A DAY CLUB

Did you remember that 1988 is a leap year? 1986 figures from the Proceedings of 1987 show that we averaged three quarters of a cent per day in that year.