



Grand Lodge Bulletin

VOL. 53, NO. 10

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

DECEMBER 1988

CHRISTMAS 1988

I welcome the invitation to share the message of Christmas through the pages of our Grand Lodge Bulletin. My initial reaction was to abbreviate one of the numerous Christmas sermons which I have preached during almost forty years of ministry. Instead of that poor fare, I have elected to share with you an article which appeared in the December, 1985 issue of The Masonic Bulletin of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia. It was under the title of "Christmas" and over the signature of "Granite Chips". Each year I read it again as regularly as I do, "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. I hope you find it as stimulating and encouraging as I do.

V.W.Bro. Rev. P.H. Burrill, Grand Chaplain.

CHRISTMAS

Nations of the world have their quarrels and jealousies; men experience their petty triumphs, successes, and failures; new fads, philosophies, and foibles come, stay awhile, and are gone; the daily round continues with monotonous regularity; and then comes Christmas. Christmas, the happy season when an enthusiastic spirit of love and fraternalism seems to enter into the hearts of men and women all over the world. Why should this be?

The story of Christmas is centuries old, but many other stories are hoary with age and have not its mystic spell. It is a simple story, but there are many other simple stories and they have not gripped the imagination of men with the same soul-stirring intensity. What, then, is the reason for this magic in the word "Christmas"?

Is it not because it is a story of love and sacrifice? Is it not because it tells of One who lived not for Himself but for others? Is it not because it is a time of unselfishness and generosity, kindness and benevolence, happiness and jollity?

Would that this day could be extended to last throughout the year! that this spirit of brotherly love could be a daily experience! that this dream of the brotherhood of man could become an accepted reality!

We have a long way to travel before this happy day is reached. But while there is a Christmas there is hope. As long as the spirit of peace and goodwill is abroad in the world, even if for only a short season each year, we can face the future with confidence and optimism. Especially should we in Freemasonry have faith. Let us then with staunch hearts and firm determination renew our vows, and in so doing pray that the philosophy of Freemasonry may become the philosophy of Mankind.

10 COMMANDMENTS FOR AN ENTHUSIASTIC LODGE

1. Help each other be right - not wrong
2. Look for ways to make new ideas work - not for reasons they won't.
3. Don't make negative assumptions about each other.
4. Help each other win and take pride in each other's victories.
5. Speak positively about each other and about your lodge at every opportunity.
6. Maintain a positive mental attitude no matter what the circumstances.
7. Do everything with enthusiasm - it's contagious.
8. Smile at your brethren and shake hands with every visitor.
9. Whatever you want - give it away.
10. Enjoy your Lodge Life.

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.

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

Individual subscription rate for Non Members of the G.L.A., \$10.00(CAN) per year.

Basic Advertising Rate: \$10.00 per column inch.

Grand Master M.W.Bro. D.A.(Dave) Bruce
 Deputy Grand Master R.W.Bro. S.E.(Stan) Mottershead
 Senior Grand Warden R.W.Bro. D.R.(Don) Millar
 Junior Grand Warden R.W.Bro. C.D.(Cal) Shaver
 Grand Secretary R.W.Bro. A.F.(Al) Aylesworth

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Why is it inappropriate to wear a pin that looks like a cane with two small balls attached?

ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER

An eavesdropper is a person who listens under a wall to hear gossip, a secret listener. The word is thought to be Old Norse and was used in the fifteenth century. The old lectures at the revival of Masonry in 1717 indicated that the punishment for being an eavesdropper was "to be placed under the eaves of the house in rainy weather till the water runs in at his shoulders and out at his heels."

The word is not synonymous with a "cowan" who is a non-Mason who tries to enter a lodge surreptitiously.

W.Bro. R. Sharp, Concord Lodge No. 124
 W.Bro. A. James Friesen, Hinton Lodge No. 178

A RARE EVENT

W.Bro. Gene Merrill who was W.M. of Jasper Park Lodge No. 143 in 1965, was in the chair again in 1987-88. During this second term as W.M. all three of his sons became Master Masons. We congratulate all four of the Merrill brethren on this unusual event.



L-R Bro. Jim Merrill, W.Bro. Gene Merrill, Bro. Ken Merrill, Bro. Laurie Merrill.

THE JURISPRUDENCE COMMITTEE

From a short talk by the Chairman, M.W.Bro. W.A. Milligan.

The Jurisprudence committee is appointed each year by the Grand Master with the members coming from the Board of General Purposes. In the past it was the Grand Master's prerogative to appoint two members who were not on the Board, but who had expertise in areas required by the Committee, such as lawyers.

The duties of the committee include checking all submissions for consideration at the Grand Lodge Communication dealing with changes to the Constitution.

There are six requirements which must be met before a Notice of Motion to amend the Constitution can be considered to be 'in order'. These requirements are:

1. it has not been defeated in Grand Lodge in the preceding three years;
2. it was received in the Grand Lodge office 90 days before the day Grand Lodge is opened, or was presented at the preceding Grand Communication;
3. its intent is clear and not ambiguous.
4. it is not in conflict with other sections of the Constitution.
5. it complies with the requirements set out in Section 38 of the Constitution governing Notices of Motion.
6. the Notice of Motion came through a lodge or from a Grand Master's Special Committee.

The Jurisprudence Committee does not endorse or recommend any proposed motion. It simply reports if the Notice of Motion is 'in order' or 'not in order'.

In addition to the above duties, the committee is called upon to review the proceedings of each Masonic trial to be sure the person charged received a fair trial in all respects.

The Jurisprudence Committee does not enjoy declaring a Notice of Motion 'out of order'. To avoid this, the committee is willing to give advice to a lodge on proposed Notices of Motion as long as they are sent in, through the Grand Secretary, well before the 90 day deadline for submission.

The committee or its members cannot meet with, or communicate directly with, individual members of the Craft. No single member of the committee can give answers to questions on matters relating to Jurisprudence as such answers must be committee decisions.

QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

If you want to plan for a year, plant a seed;
 If you want to plan for ten years, plant a tree;
 If you want to plan for a lifetime, educate and support our youth, for they are our future leaders
 M.W.Bro. D. Bruce, G.M.

EXCERPT FROM THE PAPER

"THE MASONIC ORDER: A SUGGESTED STRATEGY"

by R.W.Bro. D.A. Rennie, G.S.W., Saskatchewan
Presented at the Banff Conference, 1988.

If the Masonic Order does select youth as a target for assistance, there is no doubt that the dividends both to the youth involved and to Masonry have the potential to be enormous. Just imagine in each of the . . . districts, district youth committees working in unison with senior Grand Lodge committees, on a program to induce and assist promising youngsters to earn a post secondary certificate or diploma or University degree in the area of their choosing! But backing Canada's best requires dollars. Are Masons prepared to accept a surcharge on their annual dues in support of an expanded youth oriented program? . . . The traditional pattern of the self-made man succeeding without education is a part of history, and Masonry can be a major player in charting the path of the future by backing Canada's best, the youth of today.

FROM AFAR

The Pennsylvania Youth Foundation which is operated by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania is just six years old. It was created to "concern itself with the seedlings which become the vines within the vinyard of Masonry".

The Foundation has three purposes, the first is to be a liaison between G.L. and the three Masonic youth organizations, Job's Daughters, Rainbow and DeMolay. Second it supervises programs, seminars and workshops conducted at the Masonic Conference Center - Patton Campus. Third, it stabilizes and promotes the Order of DeMolay.

The twenty-four person Board of Directors include representatives of each youth group and all past Grand Masters.

The fund has assets of \$2,000,000. Contributions, trusts and bequests in 1987 were \$700,000. In 1987, approximately \$250,000.00 was spent on the development of a public speaking program and \$95,000 directly on youth activities.

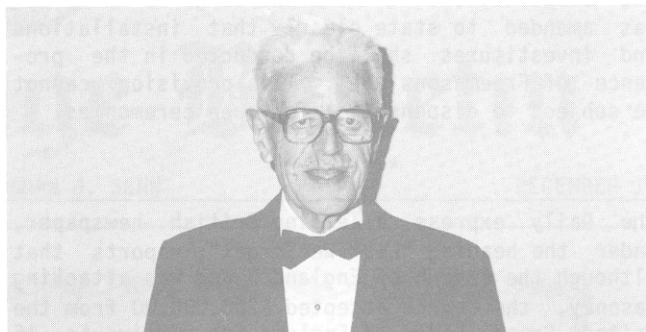
The Masons of Pennsylvania are certainly concerned about their youth and their annual report ends with the following:

"One hundred years from now it will not matter what your bank account was, the sort of house you lived in, or the kind of car you drove. But the world may be different because you were important in the life of a young person."

LODGE NOTICES

It has become apparent over the last few months that the content of Lodge notices has improved significantly. The Worshipful Masters, Secretaries and Editors are to be commended for making their notices more meaningful to their membership.

R.W. Brother Edward Hewitt Rivers
Grand Secretary 1953 - 1970



September 1st, 1904

October 1st, 1988

R.W. Bro. Rivers, affectionately known as "Ned" by his many friends, passed to the Grand Lodge above after an extended battle with cancer.

Bro. Rivers was born in Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, England. He emigrated to Canada at the age of 16 and worked on various farms until he joined the Alberta Provincial Police in 1926. Six years later he joined the RCMP and spent most of his time in the Peace River area, but was transferred to Edmonton where he retired in 1953.

Bro. River was initiated, passed and raised in Spirit River Lodge No. 116 in 1930. At the time of his death he had Honorary Life membership in lodges 1, 15, 51, 74, 106, 128, 156 and 185. He served as Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1945, Grand Registrar in 1951 and Grand Secretary in 1953, which position he occupied for 17 years.

Outside the Lodge, Bro. Rivers was extremely active in his church, the SPCA and the Army Cadet League.

His funeral was held at Saint Barnabas Anglican Church on October 5th with the Right Rev. J. Barry Curtis, Lord Bishop of Calgary officiating with other dignitaries of the Church. The service was attended by over two hundred Masons from all parts of the province including 13 Past Grand Masters and the Grand Master, in addition to an equal number of friends and associates.

The homily accurately described Bro. Rivers as being "a dear and supporting friend; a man with wide interests; a Christian gentleman with high integrity who loved his family, his church and his community; a man who knew what needed to be done and did it; a man who, when he assumed responsibility, saw that the task was accomplished; a Man who was interested in individuals and a true man of God."

All those who knew his involvement in Masonry, also knew of his love and dedication to the Craft. His death is a sad loss to the Craft but the memories of his contributions will live on.

Bro. Rivers is survived by his Brother Peter, three children, Alastair, Betty and Peter, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

FROM AFAR

The Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba was amended to state clearly that installations and investitures shall be conducted in the presence of Freemasons ONLY. This provision cannot be subject to dispensation for open ceremonies.

* * * * *

The Daily express, a leading British newspaper, under the heading "Lest We Forget", reports that although the Church of England Synod was attacking Masonry, the Church accepted \$200,000.00 from the United Grand Lodge of England for repairs to 16 cathedrals in the same period.

**SASKATCHEWAN LODGE'S
NEW YEAR'S LEVEE**

This annual event will be held as usual at the Central Masonic Temple from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. on January 1st, 1989.

All Masons in the area are invited to attend and join the lodge members and the Grand Master in celebrating another New Year.

TOPIC FOR LODGE DISCUSSION

Does the description of the purpose of the compasses apply to the world of 1989?

**FROM THE LODGE NOTICES
WORK AND WORDS**

Some Brothers on the sidelines sit,
while others grace the floor.
Some for degree work have no wit,
yet none need this deplore.
They may have so well learned our creeds
of Love, Relief and Truth,
they show them forth in kindly deeds
and ease the orphan's ruth;
and all may see the light that shines
above their daily strife.
It is not how you say your lines,
but how you live your life!

Contrariwise, the favored few
who memorize with ease
may star in everything they do
In putting on degrees;
yet these should ever keep in mind
that words are not enough,
they have to practice being kind
and really do their stuff.
This is a fact we cannot dodge,
so don't puff up with pride
It's not how well you do in Lodge,
but how you do outside!

Walter K. Belt
Avon Glen Lodge No. 170, Edmonton

RECOGNITION OF A DISTANT BROTHER

Bro. Jim Harkness, a member of Buffalo Park Lodge No. 44 Wainwright now resides in Sussex, England. Bro. Harkness, an Ex-RCMP officer, is now 92 years old and communicates regularly with his lodge through the mail. The problem of presenting his 60 year bar was solved by R.W.Bro. Don Maskell, PDDGM No. 12, who on his recent visit to Britain, made the presentation on behalf of the Lodge to a delighted Bro. Harkness.



L- R.W.Bro. Don Maskell R- Bro. J. Harkness

RECOGNITION

Bro. Donald Campbell of Cornerstone Lodge No. 19, High River was recently awarded his 50 Year Jewel. Bro. Campbell now lives in Edmonton so the presentation was made by W.Bro. T.C. Weedenhamer, P.M. of Cornerstone Lodge, at Mystic Tie Lodge in Edmonton.



L-R: Bro. Campbell - W. Bro. Weedenhamer

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM



Milly Hartley
10811 MAPLEFORD RD. S.E.
CALGARY, ALBERTA
T2J 1X6
(BY APPOINTMENT)
PHONE (403) 271-4334

FRATERNAL JEWELLERY GIFTS SUPPLIES