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# Grand Lodge Bulletin

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Vol. 56, No. 6

Editor, W. Bro. Kingsley Dean

June 1991

## His Honour Thomas Gordon Towers Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta

Past Grand Master, the M.W.Bro. T.G. Towers performed his first official duty as the Queen's representative in Alberta by reading the Speech From The Throne at the recent opening of the Legislative Assembly.

His Honour Gordon Towers previously rendered distinguished service to his fellow Canadians as the Member of Parliament for the Red Deer constituency from 1972 to 1989.

Gordon Towers was born in Red Deer on July 5, 1919. He grew up on his father's farm at nearby Willowdale during the "Great Depression," farmed the land himself until 1972, and then turned the thriving, mixed agricultural operation over to two of his sons. Gordon and Doris moved into a modest house in Red Deer and lived there unostentatiously until they were summoned to live in the vice-regal residence in Edmonton. A chauffeured limousine has also been provided.

M.W.Bro. Towers began his Masonic career by petitioning Red Deer Lodge No. 12 in 1944. He served as Worshipful Master of that Lodge in 1953 and as District Deputy Grand Master of District No. 4 in 1960. Elected Junior Grand

Warden in 1963, Thomas Gordon Towers became the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta A. F. & A. M. in Canada's Centennial Year. He travelled extensively throughout his jurisdiction and from Yellowknife to Medicine Hat he was warmly welcomed and enthusiastically honoured by members of the Craft Lodges.

Gordon Towers was a hyperactive worker in the 4-H Club movement, the Red Deer Exhibition Association, and the Red Deer Zion Presbyterian Church. In politics he was a powerful supporter of the Progressive Conservative Party. The protocol of his present august position requires that he refrain from partisan participation or significant comment.

But Gordon is a "people person" and his "small-town warmth" will continue to make a lasting impression on the thousands of fellow Albertans with whom he will come into close contact over the next five years.

With septuagenarian vigour, colossal ability, and moral integrity he will preside over "the affairs of state" with tact, poise and savoir-faire.

**God Save The Queen**

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## Grand Master's Comments

"Time like an ever rolling stream, bears all its sons away". Yes, my Brethren my time is fast coming to an end. Every year at this time, each Grand Master faces the reality that one's term of office is soon coming to a close. To try and select the proper words for this writing make the difficulty a greater task to express the feelings adequately.

Firstly, to the Masons of this Jurisdiction, my sincere thank you for allowing me the honour and privilege of serving as your Grand Master. To some, this office would seem to be an elevating experience. To me in reality I have found it to be a very humbling one.

The support that I have received throughout the year as I have visited throughout the Jurisdiction has demonstrated that Masonry is alive and well. I am convinced that there is a resurgence in our membership, as well as a deep feeling and love for the craft. To be able to "Share my Dream" with all my Brethren is a reality come true. Time

and time again, I have witnessed Brethren expressing their genuine and deep respect for the office and title I have been fortunate and proud to carry. The warmth of welcome and the sincere quest for information continually demonstrated to me the emotional desire to grow in Masonic knowledge. This is the cement which binds all of us together into that one common band, among whom no contention will ever exist. I have travelled far and wide as your representative and the hospitality extended to Evelyn and I will long be remembered and cherished. The support of the Officers of Grand Lodge on all my visitations is sincerely appreciated.

As we now approach the climax of this current year with the Annual Communication; I quote from my friend M.W.Bro. Robert Papas, Immediate Past Grand Master of Minnesota, in his closing address:

"I feel there is a real strength in our organization that sustains us: a genuine love for Masonry. We must be careful, however, that we do not smother ourselves with that love. We must not be misguided in our actions to

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**Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons**

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protect at the expense of growth; in reality, if we are not growing, we are dying. We must venture into tomorrow's world with a futuristic vision and approach.

Too often Masons seem to fear taking a position which is not in agreement with the prevailing opinion. They tend to adopt a view that is ambiguous. Those great Masons of the past that we point to with pride were certainly not afraid of being different. They did not hide their ideas for fear of being criticized. In fact, Freemasonry was, and must continue to be, a source of innovation and free thinking. The real measure of our greatness will be determined not by where we stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but how we face change and controversy. The great Mason will risk his own prestige for the benefit of the organization. We have been dominated for too long by negative thinkers, naysayers and those who are critical but offer no positive effort or assistance."

We have a way to travel over that is extremely perilous, we will be beset by many dangers of many kinds — but we all have our faith, that faith that has carried us this far. We shall not be deserted.

My heartfelt thanks to the Masons of Alberta for enabling me to serve as your Grand Master. I only hope to be remembered not as one, cold and timid, but as one who carried forth with a worthy cause. May the G.A.O.T.U. delight to dwell with you and Bless us all, everyone.

Don R. Millar  
Grand Master

## Editorial

The sand of time has run through the Editor's hour-glass. With this issue, my assignment from the Grand Master terminates. Publicly in print, I want to thank W.Bro. Garth Cochran of Calgary Lodge No. 23 who skilfully enhanced the material with his artistic desk-top publishing techniques prior to the printer's replication. W.Bro. Gerry Webber and the computer operator in the office of Grand Lodge are also unsung heroes who co-ordinated and processed the ten issues.

One of my objectives was to publish copy and graphics

from as many Lodge notices as possible. The editor receives a copy of Lodge summonses. Some brethren will have noticed excerpts from their handiwork reprinted in the Grand Lodge Bulletin. But for the most part, material in the notices is not worthy of duplication for the edification of other members of the Craft. But you may ask: "Is that what lodge notices are for?" For certain, it is not a constitutional requirement.

The basic requirements of a Lodge notice are: that it summons the members to regular Lodge meetings seven clear days before such meeting; that the Lodge seal be displayed prominently; that emergent meetings be specified as to time, place, and purpose; that the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the Master, his two Wardens, and the Secretary be made readily available to the members; that the roster of relevant Grand Lodge officers and Lodge Officers be included; that the current status of candidates for the degrees be stated precisely with the full name, occupation, address and phone numbers published at least once; that Notices of Motion and other critical agenda items be promulgated; that other activities of the Lodge, the District, and Grand Lodge be advertised.

It is not requisite nor necessary for the Lodge notice to be a medium for the egocentrism of Installed Masters, District Deputies, and Grand Lodge Officers. Protracted rosters are a travesty of the modest decorum Masons claim to espouse.

The Master's Message should be the focal point of each and every Lodge notice. It should communicate Masonic philosophy, explain Masonic symbolism, reinforce Masonic virtue and morality, preach Masonic toleration, extol Masonic charitable endeavours, and "instruct the brethren." It should not review past events, accentuate gratitude for duties performed, or promote future endeavours.

Present Lodge notices radically vary as to appearance, content, degree of computerization, typesetting (writing), filling in blank spaces, preprinting of one side, et cetera. A hundred or more Summonses meet the basic essential requirements. A mere dozen or so can be categorized as "interesting." Remember that the Lodge notice is evermore frequently the only form of contact made between the Master and most of his brethren.

Look well to your notices!

## "The Inscribed Pomegranate from the 'House of the Lord'"

Precis of N. Avigad, *Biblical Archaeologist* 53, 1990.

As Masons we have more than a passing interest in the Temple in Jerusalem built by King Solomon. Unfortunately, little tangible evidence of its existence remains today. However, the Israel Museum has recently made an outstanding acquisition which helps bridge the gulf between the Biblical stories and the reality of Solomon's Temple. The acquisition is a thumb sized pomegranate carved in ivory and bearing an inscription in ancient Hebrew letters. This pomegranate is believed to be the only archeological find known which, in all probability, can be associated with King Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem.

The shape of the pomegranate is reminiscent of a very small, gracefully designed vase with a rounded body tapering towards its flat bottom and a narrow, tall neck. This neck terminates in the form of six lengthy petals, two of which are broken. The shape of the pomegranate represents the fruit in its blossom stage. It is 43 mm tall and 21 mm in diameter. The body is solid but has a hole cut into its bottom, which is 6.5 mm in diameter and 15 mm deep. This hole probably served to insert a rod, stick, or shaft. Around the shoulder of the object is incised an inscription in ancient Hebrew characters. About one-third of the inscription is broken off. The inscription has been translated, "Sacred donation for the priests of the House of Yahweh."

The importance of such a find as the pomegranate demands stringent authentication. The object had an ancient patina, which covered the surface. This patina could also be seen in the incisions of the letters. Thus, the inscription is as old as the pomegranate and not likely to have been added later. The inscription itself looks worn with rounded edges on the characters rather than sharp ones which would indicate that the inscription was not added recently by a forger to an old object and adding a fake patina. Signs of forcible destruction and long burial are also evident.

The script is typical of that used in Solomon's day and is well executed by a skilled engraver who was familiar with Hebrew writing. The task was successful despite the difficulty of engraving in such a small scale upon the uneven and rounded surface of the pomegranate's shoulder.

The next question was the term "House of Yahweh." Did it refer to the Jerusalem Temple or one of the shrines-sanctuaries outside Jerusalem. While those at Shiloh, Hebron, Bethlehem, Mizpah and others were occasionally referred to as the "House of Yahweh," they all preceded Solomon's Temple. After Solomon's Temple became the central place of worship, no mention of them is made in the Bible, except that of Bethel, the main Temple of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, but it was called the "King's Sanctuary." Thus, tradition, the style of writing of the inscription on the pomegranate and other factors dating the object strongly suggest that the "House of Yahweh" referred to in the inscription was most likely Solomon's Temple.

The pomegranate was a commonly used symbol in the ancient Near East. Its multitudinous seeds made it a popular symbol of fertility. It has been a favourite symbolic motif in Jewish art from its earliest beginnings down to modern times. Its use in decorating Solomon's Temple should be familiar to all Masons. A pomegranate motif was also used in the robes of the High Priest. While the Bible provides little information as to how a pomegranate headed sceptre might have been used in Temple worship, such objects have been found all over the ancient Near East and depicted in many statues and bas-reliefs.

The ivory pomegranate with its unique inscription place it in Solomon's Temple. Its use as a decoration is consistent with Solomon's day, and fits in well with its known use on the High Priest's robes and the pillars at the entrance to the Temple. Its exact role in Temple worship is still unknown.

L.W. Kline

## Masonry in Action

W.Bro. W.G. Scott — Freemason Extraordinaire



William Gladstone Scott is 93 years old. He was gassed a Passchendaele and lost both legs during World War I. Bill has been a patient in the Mewburn Veterans Centre in Edmonton for the past twelve years. Though his hands are crippled with arthritis and his eyesight impaired with glaucoma, his spirits are high. Bill Scott sets a good example for all to follow in his attitude toward life.

"My feet were sore and I complained — until I met a man with no feet."

W.Bro. W.G. Scott was Master of Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92 in 1936/37. He was very active in York Rite Masonry and held the highest office in several of the Orders. He was also a member of the Scottish Rite, the Royal Order of Scotland, and the Shrine. Life memberships have been bestowed upon him by his Lodge, the Scottish Rite, and the Shrine.

To celebrate his birthday this year, arrangements were made for Bill to be taken to the Mayfield Inn for the weekend and he enjoyed staying in a comfortable suite. A goodly number of Masonic and other friends visited him there. The temporary change in social venue pleased him very much.

Bro. Len Denyer of Avon Glen Lodge No. 170 transported Bill to and from the Mayfield Inn in a specially equipped van donated by the Strathcona Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion to the Mewburn Centre.

Camrose Lodge No. 37

## Freemasonry in the Community

Freemasonry made the local paper in Camrose. Accompanied by a picture (which we, unfortunately, do not have for publication), the paper reported on the presentation of a cheque from Camrose Lodge No. 37 to the Bethany Home to help defray the high cost of a C.P.R. (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) course by W.Bro. Jens Servold and Bro. Arden Olson. Gratefully receiving the \$450 contribution was Cathy Johnson, the recreation therapist at the Bethany Home.

## Freemasonry at Work

*Avon Glen Lodge No. 170*



The late R.W.Bro. G.P. Puffer has a dream! He dreamed that the brethren of Avon Glen Lodge No. 170 would band together to construct a Masonic Senior Citizens Centre complete with a furnished lodge room. "The Pillar Society" was incorporated under the Societies Act in 1978 to bring that dream to fruition. Membership consisted of Masons from several Edmonton lodges.

In 1980, a building site was acquired and construction plans were drawn by architects. Unfortunately, the funding source, Alberta Housing, decided that such projects outnumbered the need for such accommodation and withdrew its financial support.

For a decade, The Pillar Society searched assiduously for a housing project to manage. Quite unexpectedly, the operation of Westlawn Courts was made available and the Society accepted the challenge as of April 1, 1991.

The property is an excellent apartment building with 199 self-contained suites, half of which were built ten years ago and the other half at the later date. The site is well landscaped with spacious lawns, flower beds, trees and picnic areas.

The Pillar Society exercises control over this "hands-off" operation through its Board of Directors. A paid manager and staff do all the work involved.

Memberships in The Pillar Society are still available for the modest fee of \$25 plus annual dues. Interested Masons should contact either V.W.Bro. Hu Puffer at 459-6048 or W.Bro. Tom Gladders at 489-5069.

### *Dynamic Lodge No. 96*

The lower floor of the Masonic Hall in Holden has become a village museum to be operated by an historical society. The Lodge will continue to meet in the upper-floor lodge room until its 75th anniversary in 1994. The building has been sold to the village for one dollar because the Lodge could no longer afford to pay the taxes. It is to be hoped that the Masonic Hall in Holden will be designated an historical site by the provincial government.

### *Mystic Tie Lodge No. 188*

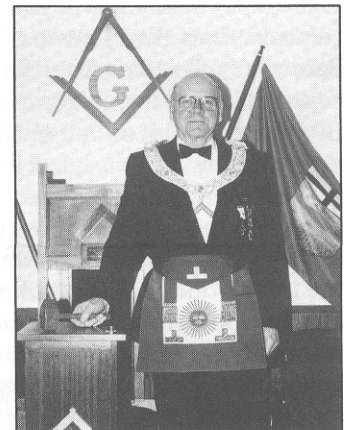
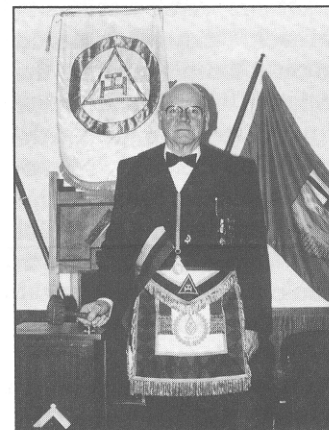


A memorable meeting of Mystic Tie Lodge No. 188 on February 27, 1991 marvelled at the raising of two Fellowcraft to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by a very special team consisting of the Grand Master, three Past Grand Masters and 24 District Deputy Grand Masters (past-present-future).

The Worshipful Master of Mystic Tie No. 188, W.Bro. Bob Mewhort, had the pleasure of placing his original Master Mason's apron (Edson Lodge No. 68, 1958) on his son Bro. Robert Ward Mewhort. R.W.Bro. Rex Dawson placed a Master Mason's apron on Bob's nephew Bro. Charles Ronald Burns.

The acting Worshipful Master for the degree was the first candidate in Mystic Tie Lodge and immediate past DDGM, R.W.Bro. Don Turvey.

### *Double Duty Oslund*



Masonic history in the making! Past Grand First Principal, Most Excellent Companion Norman F. Oslund (l.) was installed as First Principal of the Cold Lake Chapter No. 39 R.A.M. on December 8, 1990. Past Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Norman F. Oslund, (r.) had been installed as Master of his Mother Lodge, Astra No. 179, in June of 1988. Norman Oslund puts into practice his firm conviction that Past Grand Chapter officers and Past Grand Lodge officers are duty bound to serve their root Chapters and Lodges whensoever the need arises as they are requested to do so. He has cheerfully commuted approximately 200 miles on each meeting date over the two Masonic year periods.