



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Vol. 58, No. 10

Editor, R.W.Bro. Norman J. Senn

December 1993

Celebrations Of Light

I was initiated into Freemasonry in a Lodge which used the Canadian Work. I remember, as many of you may, that, at one point during that somewhat bewildering ceremony, I was asked a question to which I was prompted to answer "Light". At the time the answer seemed like a very simple and straight forward request to have a physical need met. But as with much in Freemasonry, there are often layers of meaning to be found beneath the simplest of phrases. I am continually reminded that my early request for "Light" was for more than that which comes from the fixtures in the ceiling of the Lodge Room. How often have we heard the expression, "let's have a little more light on the subject!" or, "I see the light!" Neither of these expressions has much to do with a sixty watt bulb. These phrases point to a recognition of light as a symbol of knowledge, understanding, truth and, for many, the presence of God.

Expressions relating to light figure prominently in much of the religious language of the world. It is also no coincidence that religious celebrations which focus on light tend to take place during the darkest period of our year, the middle of winter, and often commemorate the return of the Divine into the darkness of human life.

Many of our ancient ancestors would have celebrated the Winter Solstice (21 December), marking the time when the days begin, once again, to grow longer, when light seems to return to the earth.

Among the celebrations of light, which are still observed in our modern world is the Hindu Festival of Light — Divali. This five day festival, which began on 13 November this year, is celebrated by placing small earthenware lamps along the parapets of temples and houses and setting them adrift on rivers and streams. This is said to be in commemoration of the return of Rama, an incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu, to Ayodhya and his delayed coronation as King after 14 years in exile.

Another celebration, perhaps more well known, is the Jewish Festival of Light, Chanukah. This eight day celebration, which begins on the 25th of Kislev, (December 5, 1993), celebrates the purification of the Temple in Jerusalem by Judas Maccabaeus in 164 B.C., after it was polluted by Antiochus Epiphanes. Tradition says that, at the rededication of the Temple, there could only be found enough sacred lamp oil for one days' light in the Temple lamp stand. Miraculously the oil lasted eight days until

more oil could be procured, lighting the Temple and reminding the children of Israel of the continuing light of God's presence in their midst.

For me and for most Christians, Christmas on 25 December, (or for some 6 Jan.) is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the first episode in the life of one who has established a new relationship between God and humanity. He is the one whom Christians call the "Light of the World".

Each of these festivals should remind those of us who celebrate them of what is truly the brightest and best. We live in a world that is too often darkened by our own human activity. Open the Volume of the Sacred Law and read again the stories of the Most High shining in our darkened world. As a man and as a Mason you owe it to yourself and to the world. As you celebrate this season, and I hope you do, open yourselves to the Light which shines through your festivities, and may the Most High bless you with "the predominant wish of your heart".

VW Bro. Larry K. Wright
Grand Chaplain

From The Notices

"The *Edmonton Journal* (June 16th.) reported on a seminar given by performance psychologist Robert Kriegel. His statement, '...The Goal isn't to make the sale, it's to create the relationship...', reminded me of what Masonry and the Masonic renewal Program is all about. I would suggest that our goal isn't to make a man a Mason, but to create a relationship with him as a Mason. We can put a man through the degrees, he can be a member of our Lodge, but, if we haven't taken the time to establish a relationship with him, we cannot expect him to be an active member of our Lodge."

Bro. Tren J. Cole, Worshipful Master
Commercial Lodge, Edmonton.

New Year's Levee

Once again the New Year's Levee, honouring the Grand Master, will be held in Edmonton at 12 noon on New Year's Day. The event will be at Freemasons' Hall and all are welcome. Saskatchewan Lodge members are to be congratulated for organising this ongoing Masonic tradition.

The Grand Lodge Bulletin

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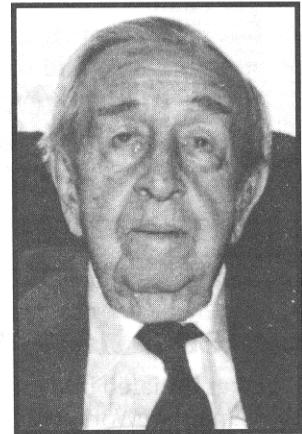
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One Of Alberta's Oldest Masons Dies At 106

On January 13, 1977 the Worshipful Master, **Don Leighton** requested that **M.W.Bro. F.J. Thompson** approach the altar to make a special presentation to **Bro. Polley** on the occasion of his 90th birthday. **Bro. Rod Ponech** placed a new VSL on the Altar and, at that time, the sacred book was presented to the Lodge and dedicated to Bro. Polley.



Bro. Walter Polley

M.W.Bro. Thompson spoke of Bro. Walter Polley's devotion to the Craft over his years as Chaplain. The Volume of the Sacred Law is suitable inscribed:

"This Bible is dedicated to Bro. Walter Polley — Chaplain of Acacia Lodge No. 11, 1945-1977, on the occasion of his 90th birthday."

V.W.Bro. Polley passed to the Grand Lodge above on Sunday September 6, 1993, at the age of 106. Bro. Polley, who was born on January 13, 1887, was initiated November, 1925, passed February 25, 1926, and raised April 22, 1926. He was a life member of Acacia Lodge and Grand Tyler in 1977, in his 90th year.

He was Chaplain of Acacia Lodge for 32 consecutive years and enjoyed partaking in a variety of the work during that time. During his years at the seniors residence, Walter was visited on a regular basis but, most especially, on his annual birthday parties. Members of Acacia Lodge presented Walter with a sample of his favourite brandy on his 106th birthday. Members reported that on that visitation Walter proudly wore his Masonic ring and attempted to recite some of the degree work.

Submitted by **Fred Bowker**, Secretary
 Acacia Lodge No. 11

Do You Play Chess?

Master Masons of recognized lodges are eligible to join the Masonic Postal Chess Club. Members play chess by mail with brother Masons in all states and provinces. Membership includes both beginners and experienced players and brethren are matched accordingly. Members play as often and with as many opponents as desired. You send your move to your opponent on a post card. He puts your move on his board, decides what his move will be, then sends you his move. Some members prefer to play with only one opponent, while some play seven or eight games simultaneously. There are several Masons in Canada who enjoy membership in MPCC but we would like a larger representation. Yearly dues are \$15.00. For more information write to the club secretary, Billy S. Fuller, P.O. Box 98, Jal, NM 88252-0098.

Grand Master's Itinerary

December

- 1 Balmoral Lodge, St. Albert
50 year jewel presentation - Bro Bill Lowrie
- 2 Exemplar Lodge, Edmonton, Installation
- 3 Edmonton Lodge of Perfection - Freemasons' Hall
- 4 Sherwood Lodge, Installation, Highlands Hall
- 6 Evergreen Lodge, Installation, Freemasons' Hall
- 8 Griesbach Lodge, Installation, Acacia Hall
- 9 Saskatchewan Lodge, Installation, Freemasons' Hall
- 10 Strathcona Lodge, Installation, Acacia Hall
- 11 Commercial Lodge, Installation, Freemasons' Hall
- 13 St. Mark's Lodge, Installation, Calgary
- 14 Highlands Lodge, Installation, Highlands Hall
- 16 Ivanhoe Lodge, Installation, Freemasons' Hall
- 19 Knights Templar Christmas Church Service, Highlands Hall
- 20 Empire Lodge, Installation, Freemasons' Hall

January

- 1 Grand Master's Levee, 12:00 Noon, Freemasons' Hall
Sponsored by Saskatchewan Lodge
- 4 Mosaic Lodge, Crescent Hall, Calgary
- 8 Triple Lodge Installation, Medicine Hat
- 11 Chief Mountain Lodge, Cardston
- 22 Norwood, Dominion, and Ye Olde Craft Lodge, combined Ladies Night

"Stocking Stuffers" - for under \$25.00

The following are but a few of the gift items available from Grand Lodge Office. You can order them directly from the office or through your lodge secretary.

(Order Code shown in brackets) (GST included in price)	
Alberta Masonic Lapel Pins (ROA)	\$4.30
Masonic Maple Leaf Lapel Pins (ROML)	\$6.50
Car Markers (ROC)	\$8.50
Trowel Tie Clips (RO120)	\$10.70
Collar Tabs (RO2294)	\$16.00
Alberta Tie (ROTIE)	\$24.60

What Masons Do



The following is a story about **Masonic Renewal** that was born during our **1993 Masonic Spring Workshop** in Kananaskis.

Through one of its members, **Commercial Lodge** had heard that "**Carly's mom**" wanted to get a playhouse for her only daughter (they are not a Masonic family). It was a wish that Carly and her mom truly shared. Carly's mom, however, has cancer. Their dream was for an oversized playhouse with a gingerbread design — as if it were taken right out of an Anne of Green Gables novel. Carly's family truly wanted this, but they felt they could comfortably afford only about a quarter of the cost.

The idea to build a playhouse for Carly was first put to the members of **Commercial Lodge** during the Spring Workshop in Kananaskis. It was enthusiastically embraced! It complemented the theme of **Masonic Renewal**! One of the members took it upon himself to meet with Carly's family and come up with a design. A list of materials was then produced and, at the next General Purposes Meeting, a detailed proposal was presented. After a little discussion, **Commercial Lodge** passed a motion to do the project.

Within a week, members had donated all the necessary money and materials or had made arrangements for donations from outside suppliers. Construction began on the long weekend in May. By working many evenings and a few weekends the playhouse was ready. It was designed to be taken apart for transportation and, on a beautiful Saturday morning at the end of June, sixteen members of the lodge (and one of their sons) showed up and did just that!

All of the pieces were loaded onto a donated truck and, by noon, the playhouse was delivered to Carly's backyard. During the rest of the day our members applied their diverse talents, energies and humour to the final details. By supper time Carly and her mom's wish had been granted.

In the picture of the playhouse you can see a large letter "C" above the door. That is for "Carly" and also "Commercial Lodge". There is also a cornerstone on the Northeast corner with the Lodge's logo and the date.

Out of gratitude, Carly's family made a donation to **Commercial Lodge**, which we in turn will use to make a set

of large round dining tables for **Freemasons' Hall** in Edmonton.

Carly's playhouse gave us the chance to get together, in a different capacity, with our Brothers, to do good work, to have some fun and to demonstrate the teachings and meanings of Masonry in our community. All in all, a very satisfying experience!

New Masonic Poetry Society

Following a small advertisement in the June issue of **Masonic Square**, the launch is announced of a new **International Masonic Poetry Society**. "IMPS" has been devised and launched in an attempt to serve the needs of all those brethren who recognize the poetry of the ritual; those who take pleasure in writing of their own experiences in poetic form; those who appreciate such writing; and those who seek material in this form for use at the festive board or other proper occasions.

It acknowledges that an important function of the fraternity is "to be happy and communicate happiness," and that this function can be served by verse of both a serious and humorous nature, as well as encouraging a deeper understanding of the work.

The Society plans to serve those ends by supplying a quarterly "Newsletter" to its members, who will be drawn from any constitution recognised by the Grand Lodge of England.

Brethren wishing to be associated with this new venture should contact **W. Bro. W.V. Shorto** at Barrog House, Penybontfawr, Nr. Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 0NT United Kingdom. An international reply coupon is not strictly necessary, but would be appreciated.

Fort Edmonton Cairn Dedicated

It had been some time since Masonic regalia had felt the warm sunshine of a spring day in Edmonton. But, on May 11, 1993, a couple of dozen Freemasons, including the **Grand Master**, assembled beneath the new leaves of a poplar tree at the west end of the main parking lot at **Fort Edmonton Park** to dedicate a cairn in a public ceremony.

The cairn was erected to recognize the leadership and sacrifice of the pioneer Freemasons who, literally and spiritually, built Edmonton. The Grand Master carried out a brief ceremony designed especially for the occasion. The assembled members of the Craft then adjourned to the Lodge room at Fort Edmonton Park, where the Grand Master presented Master Mason's Certificates to three Brethren. On this evening, two newly raised Brethren received their Master Mason's aprons and **R.W. Bro. Ron Gordon** provided a fascinating explanation of the significance and symbols of the Apron.

There was one small disappointment. The press was present and chose not to use the story or pictures taken. Among those present, there was a sense that this would have been an excellent opportunity to give Freemasonry a real boost but there was also a hope that we would soon get a chance to try again.

Bro. Glen Binnington, Edmonton Lodge.

Bursary Awards



A large gathering in Calgary, representing three districts, attended a joint presentation of awards to 11 recipients at **King George Masonic Hall**. All the parents were in attendance and the presentation was made in Masonic regalia by those officiating. **M.W. Bro. Bruce** gave a well received talk on Masonry and **Job's Daughters** were present to assist with refreshments. In addition to the DDGMs, the DGM and SGW were also in attendance with the Vice-Chairman of the Bursary Fund. This event is a highlight of each Masonic Year.

Submitted by **RW Bro. Clyde Elford**
Vice-Chairman, MHEBF

Grand Lodge Of Ireland

The Grand Lodge of Ireland has withdrawn recognition of the Grand Lodge of India, due to the changing of the Book of Laws and Constitutions of the GL India at its 1992 Communication. The GL of Ireland views these changes as a contravention of a Concordat accepted when the GL of India was formed in 1961. From December 1992, no Irish Mason may visit, or have dual membership in, an Indian Lodge. This matter is under continuing review.

From **The Grand Lodge of Ireland Newsletter**

Masonic Example To The Church

From the **Rev. Anthony Hammond Christian**, Pevensey, UK — **The Church Times** — February 1992

"Freemasonry is not a religion and in no way interferes with the beliefs, or the moral or social duties, of its members. That said, the Craft does challenge the Church in one important respect, for it engenders a spirit of brotherhood that is so sadly lacking in so many congregations and assemblies of churchmen, both lay and ordained.

"The general Synod, as a legislative assembly to the Church of England, would do well to remind itself that the established Church has a special role in this country to minister to all men.

"Freemasonry, true to its spirit of brotherhood, has always been generous to the Church. It is a pity that its generosity is no longer matched by the leadership of the Church of England. The Church has much to learn from Freemasonry."

From **The Grand Lodge of Ireland Newsletter**

Heritage Park International News

The brethren who attend heritage Park have the opportunity to discuss Freemasonry with Masons from all over the world and there are often interesting outcomes. One such event occurred on a day in the early summer of this year, when **Bro. Jim Colvin** and **RW Bro. Alex Richardson**, both of Concord Lodge, were receiving visitors. During a fascinating discussion with **W. Bro. Doug Rabjohn**, Secretary of **Malling Centenary Lodge No. 8068**, Kent, the topic of the only woman to be made a Mason arose. Brethren may remember that this old story was recounted in the Bulletin some years ago and most Masonic histories record the event.

W. Bro. Rabjohn informed the two Alberta brethren that the grave of this lady was in Cork Cathedral, Ireland. On interest being expressed, he promised a photograph and, true to his promise, the photograph arrived. It is reprinted below as an example of the wonderful opportunities we have to share Masonic knowledge at our two heritage lodges in the province.



The Master's Trestleboard

Brethren, this month we are installing and investing a new slate of officers for the ensuing Masonic year, I thought it might be of interest to share with you some interesting installation practices from other countries and jurisdictions.

Various customs prevail as to the identity of the installing officer. In some places, it is the custom of the retiring Master to install his successor and, for the newly installed Master then to install his officers.

An attempt to debar lodges from working what is loosely referred to as "an extended Installation" was strongly opposed in 1926. While new lodges are instructed not to take into use such "traditional" forms, old lodges, which had customarily performed their Installation in this way, were permitted to continue to do so.

In Irish lodges, the whole of the Installation ceremony is

carried out in the First Degree in the form prescribed in the book of Laws and Constitution.

In Scotland, the Master-elect is presented at the four corners of the room.

In certain areas of the United' States, a feature often met with is the Public Installation of Officers. The lodge convenes in the usual way, with the necessarily esoteric portions of the ceremony conducted behind properly tyled doors. At the appropriate point, the lodge is placed in recess and opened to family and friends. The officers are "installed" with some formality and suitable speeches are permitted. The non-Masons are then asked to depart, the lodge resumes labour and the proceedings completed in due form.

From the Notice of Carstairs Lodge

At the direction of the Worshipful Master, **King Hiram Lodge** of Didsbury, included in their Lodge Notice, information on a locally offered **Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation** course. Application was through the Lodge Secretary. What an invaluable assistance these Masons will be when walking around their community. It is these ideas, when followed though, which are an inspiration to all Alberta Masons.

Why On Earth Do We Do It?

On a number of lodge notices we still see that note "This communication is private and for your information only. After reading, please destroy it."

Masonry is endeavouring to move away from the "secrecy" image to one of an organization with a few private matters. There can hardly be anything so secret in a lodge notice that we have to destroy it, or be the only ones to read it. Many wives want to be involved in their husband's activities, even if it is through just having his whereabouts known on certain evenings.

Let us remove this artificial wording and make members aware that the notice can be seen by the family and appropriate friends without the whole Masonic Order tumbling to its knees.

The notice of **Avon Glen Lodge**, Edmonton, contains an interesting item. **Bro. Bob Postma**, WM, had waved to an elderly gentleman on a number of occasions and passed the time of day and decided to make a visit. He found a 91 year old Brother who was a Mason of 45 years standing but no longer could attend lodge. He had not been visited by a Mason for 6 years. What a good story, in some ways, and what a sad story in others. The brother's lodge should be ashamed of itself and the story should cause every other lodge to review its membership to ensure that everyone is seen, talked to and visited regularly. If the member attends lodge, it is easy — but each one of us needs to consider his Masonic teachings, which should demand that he share in the visits to the shut-ins.

Hinton Lodge Notice contains a short note about a truly Masonic act. **Bro. Ken Brands**, JS, and his wife, **Lily**, have spearheaded the "Children of Chernobyl" program in

Hinton. In a large part, they were responsible for bringing ten young Russian students to Hinton for two months, giving them time to flush much of the radiation from their bodies.

Recognition



A 50 year Jewel was presented in August to **Bro. C.E. Carlson**, who had reached his 100th birthday in October of 1992. Bro. Carlson was initiated in Drumheller Lodge and is still a member in good standing. His wife Eva and daughter Dana were present at the presentation, with **MW Bro. Stan Mottershead**, PGM, **RW Bro. Roy Murray**, PDDGM, and **VW Bro. Ernest Simpson**, PJGD. (r-l standing in picture). Bro. Carlson is presently residing in the Norwood Nursing home. Congratulations to Bro. Carlson on his Masonic and life achievements!

Question Of The Month

Why does the ritual seem to use so many repetitions, as in "duly and truly," "worthy and well qualified," etc.?

Answer To The Question Of The Month For October 1993

"Is there a specific Tassel for each virtue (in a Canadian Rite Lodge) and if so, which is which?" was the timely question asked in the October Bulletin. Timely, because, recently, **RW Bro. Roy Murray** (81) had written a paper on the Tassels and made some references to an article in the **British Columbia Masonic Bulletin**, Vol. XLIII No. 5, January 1980, entitled "The Tassels" and attributed to an "Author Unknown". The BC paper is a cumbersome treatise assigning the four cardinal virtues to the (Ancient York Rite) principal points, the guttural, pectoral, manual and pedal, at the same time referring them to the NW, NE, SE and SW, in that order, but for no good reason and, at the end of the article, the anonymous author even contradicts himself.

Bro. Murray took the matter to **Bro. Frederick Smyth**, the editor of **Ars Quatuor Coronatorum** who, in his letter to him of 13 August 1993, acknowledged that he had raised

an interesting point but that he himself, in fifty years as a Freemason, had never encountered positive locations for them, and went on to say: "It could be that, in some rather splendid Masonic temple somewhere, statues or paintings of the traditional figures representing each of the four virtues, have been placed in the four corners."

This is where I came in, and wrote to our learned Brother of Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Research where I had found the four allegorical figures, instead of tassels, with their Latin names inscribed, namely, on his own home turf, in the magnificent Grand Temple in Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London England: "TEMPERANTIA" in the SE corner, "FORTITUDO" in the SW, "PRUDENTIA" in the NW and "IUSTITIA" in the NE. So, there it is, right in the heart of our Mother Grand Lodge and, if that does not lend a sense of authority to our Brethren, who like to point at the tassels in the Charge of the First Degree, or in the General Charge, then I don't know what does.

Robert E. Juthner, PGM (81 & 1980)

Don't Drop The Ball!

While I agree that we should not violate the methods of introducing candidates into the Fraternity, there is much we can do to assure that potential new members are properly assisted in joining the Craft.

For instance, when someone asks to join, don't just say "You have to ask a local Lodge." Instead, keep the petition in motion! Give the candidate the name and telephone number of an active local Brother.

Show him where the Lodge is, either by driving by it or, at least, locating it for the candidate in the telephone book and the city map.

Arrange a luncheon, where the candidate, as your guest, can meet with you and the Worshipful Master or other officer or active member of a local Lodge. The point is to get acquainted in an informal and pleasant atmosphere.

Such action is just good sense and courtesy. So, the next time that a potential candidate for the Masonic Degrees asks you about Freemasonry, don't drop the ball!

Adapted from *The Scottish Rite Journal*

Cornerstone Bicentennial Celebration

Saturday, 18 September, saw huge number of Masons from all areas of the U.S. and many from other countries assembling in Washington D.C. They gathered to see a reenactment of the laying of the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol, which occurred on September 18, 1793. George Washington was President and he crossed the river "Patowemack," as it was then called, with Masonic brethren from Lodge No. 22 of Alexandria, Virginia. The Cornerstone was laid with full Masonic Ceremony.

Today, although having many additions and remodelings, the United States Capitol, a very beautiful and well-known building throughout the world, is the principal symbol of democracy for the citizens of the United States.

The day of events commenced with prayer at 7:30 a.m. which was followed by the reenactment at 9:00 a.m. In the afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., there was a symposium on the Capitol Building and the day concluded with a reception and banquet. All events were heavily oversubscribed and many hundreds of Masons were in Washington for this exciting and significant celebration.

International Peace Garden Lodge

The purpose of this new Lodge is to promote and enhance fraternal relations among the Freemasons of North America and to assist in the expansion and maintenance of the International Peace Gardens.

Membership in this Lodge is available worldwide to any Master Mason in good standing. To become a member of this new Lodge, send your once-in-a-lifetime fee of \$50.00 to **R.W. Bro. Scotty Gillespie**, Box 419, Boissevain, MB, ROK OEO.

From The Notices

Up In The Air With Freemasonry

On his famous solo flight over the Atlantic, in 1927, Colonel **Charles A. Lindbergh** wore the square and compasses on his jacket as a good luck emblem. He was a Mason at the time.

When **Bernt Balchen**, explorer and air pioneer, flew over the North Pole and the South Pole with **Brother Richard E. Byrd**, they dropped Masonic flags on both Poles. In the 1933-35 expedition over the South Pole, Brother Balchen also tossed his Shrine fez on the Pole.

Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr., famous astronaut, on his 22 orbit flight carried a Masonic coin in his pocket as well as a blue Masonic flag which he later presented to his mother lodge, Carbondale No. 82, Carbondale, Colorado.

On August 23, 1879, **Lodge No. 239** of France held a meeting in a balloon flying over Paris, at which time a Brother was initiated.

The inventors of the first balloon, **Joseph Montgolfier**, **Michel Montgolfier** and **Jacques Etienne**, were all members of the Nine Sisters Lodge of France.

Brother Eddie Rickenbacker, World War I air ace, was a devoted Mason for many years.

Astronauts **Virgil "Gus" Grissom***, **Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr.**, **Thomas P. Stafford**, and **Donn F. Eisele** are also members of the Fraternity.

*Brother Grissom lost his life in a flash fire in an Apollo space craft at Cape Kennedy, Florida, in January, 1967.

From the Notice of Kitchener Lodge

Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year
From the Brethren of the Bulletin Committee