



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Vol. 60: No. 1

Editor, RW Bro. Norman J. Senn

January 1995

Happy New Year

New Year's Message For 1995

Brethren, a good woodsman looks back at the crest of every hill to establish the landmarks for the trip home at the end of the day. These landmarks will become his navigational reference points to guide him to a successful conclusion to his journey. The crests of life's journey are the New Years. The Great Architect has given us this, time between the Winter Solstice and the early days of January, to evaluate how well we have carried out our duties to God, our family, our neighbour and ourselves in the past year. However, such reflections are wasted, unless we use the failures of the past to correct our course to the future.

The New Year sees many newly elected Masters begin their terms of office and other officers assume new stations and responsibilities. The experience of the year just past should afford valuable assistance for planning the year ahead, in taking advantage of ideas and policies that have been proven sound and progressive, and avoiding the pitfalls and errors that have been disclosed.

To the brethren, your whole hearted and enthusiastic support and cooperation will encourage your Master and officers to give better leadership. We are all part of a great and glorious fraternity, which can and should be a powerful influence for good throughout the world. The brothers whom you have elected as Masters will be charged with the burden and responsibility of conducting the affairs of your Lodges during the coming year. They, together with their officers, will bring to this task a full measure of dedication and devotion of the ideals of Freemasonry and, I am sure, a determination to make the coming year one of continued growth and success. They, however, cannot accomplish this alone; they need the confidence that comes from the knowledge that they have your approval and commendation. This can best be expressed in attendance at the Communications of your Lodges.

A sincere effort to do your part in promoting a successful year will be repaid in a feeling of pride and satisfaction and in the knowledge of having contributed your just share in the mission of Freemasonry. A building depends on each stone and timber to derive united strength. So, the strength of a Lodge depends on the contribution of each member. If the mortar has dirt in it the joint will be weak. If the fellowship and brotherly love in the Lodge is wanting, the unity of the Lodge will be weak. Remember, "harmony is the strength and support of all well governed institutions,

more especially ours."

Let us make 1995 a banner year for Freemasonry in our great jurisdiction. We can make it so, by avoiding the errors of the past, by replacing any private animosities, if any unhappily exist, with brotherly love, by practising outside of the Lodge the principles inculcated in it.

To all the Lodges, their Masters, Officers and members, I extend my sincere wishes for a most successful and rewarding year.

RW Bro. Gordon Macaulay, Deputy Grand Master

Getting Into The Press

Congratulations go to Chief Mountain Lodge, Cardston, Camrose Lodge and Wetaskiwin Lodge for managing to get excellent press coverage for a Masonic event.

Chief Mountain Lodge received a photo and a quarter page coverage in the Cardston *Chronicle* in August when RW Bro. Mac Gillies, DDGM, Chinook Arch and Bro. Bill Dawson, WM of the Lodge, presented Vaughn Hall with a Bursary on behalf of Alberta Masons.

Camrose Lodge had a large photo and description of the MHEBF published in the Camrose *Booster* during September. Anna Bailey and Michelle Quarin were presented with Bursaries by RW Bro. Elwyn Grattidge, PDDGM and Bro. Brent Smith, WM.

Wetaskiwin Lodge surpassed highest expectations when they received a full page in the Wetaskiwin *Times Advertiser* on October 10th of this year.

In an extremely positive article with quotes from MW Bro. Stan Harbin, PGM, MW Bro. Dave Bruce, PGM, MW Bro. Myron Lusk and RW Bro. Terry Drolet, PDDGM, the highly competent Staff writer, Barbara Almond, captured the essence of Masonry in a most readable and understandable article. The pride of the brethren quoted really shows in what they say and should do much to demonstrate the true spirit of the Craft.

Go, Go, Go

An old timer, whose income was from ferrying passengers across a river, was asked: "How many times a day do you cross the river?" "I go as often as I can", he replied. "The more I go, the more I get. If I don't go, I don't get." So it is with attending Lodge meetings. The more we go, the more we get out of our Lodge membership.

Quebec Masonic Journal

The Grand Lodge Bulletin

is published each month except July and August by the
Grand Lodge of Alberta, A. F. & A. M.

330 - 12 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2R 0H2
403-262-1140 — Fax 403-290-0671

Annual subscription rate for non-members of the G.L.A. is
C\$10.00 plus mailing costs.

Republication rights are granted to other Masonic Jurisdictions,
but acknowledgement of the source is requested.

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RW Bro. Gordon Macaulay; Bro. Trevor Morris;
W.Bro. Dick Reynolds; W.Bro. Bev Snyder; Bro. Peter Proudlock

Grand Master's Itinerary

January

- 3 Perfection Lodge, Calgary Freemasons' Hall
- 4 Avon Glen Lodge, Acacia Hall, Edmonton
- 5 Zetland Lodge, Calgary Freemasons' Hall
- 7 Concord Lodge, Calgary Freemasons' Hall
- 10 Chief Mountain Lodge, Cardston
- 12 Acacia Lodge, Acacia Hall, Edmonton
- 17 Cairo Lodge, Claresholm
- 23 Beacon Lodge, Red Deer

February

- 1 Beaver Lodge, Castor
- 2 Board of General Purposes, Red Deer
- 2 Unity Lodge, Acacia
- 3 Calgary Lodge, Calgary Freemasons' Hall
- 6 Pembina Lodge, Sangudo
- 7 Quarry Lodge, Medicine Hat
- 9 Nanton Lodge, Nanton
- 10 Temple Lodge, Highlands
- 13 Robert Burns-Cresset Lodge, Carmangay
- 15 Hand Hills Lodge, Delia
- 18-22 Grand Master's Conference of North America

Fraternal Visit To Yellowknife

The Grand Master, MW Bro. Ray Burton plans to attend Yellowknife on the 29th and 30th April. If you would enjoy accompanying the Grand Master on a short trip to visit your Brethren in the North West Territories, keep watching for further details of this exciting trip.

Lodge Notices

Many more Lodges are using computers to generate their Lodge Notices. The appearance is greatly improved and the content is becoming obviously more interesting to the members. There are even fewer of the disastrous notices which are fill-in-the-blank type. These notices sometimes do not even include the date of the meeting! Congratulations to the Lodges, and those involved in production, for "getting-on-the-bandwagon" and making their communication with the members worthwhile. What about photos and biographies of new members? — a good way to let everyone know his latest brother.

Reminder: Grand Lodge 1995

It is not too early to note on your calendar the dates of the next Grand Lodge Annual Communication, June 2 and 3, 1995. The 90th Communication will be held in Red Deer, Alberta. It should also be noted that the three Principal Officers should be in attendance — the Worshipful Master obligated himself to attend at his Installation.

Early Bird Draw! Everyone registering for accommodation at the Red Deer Lodge for the Annual Communication before March 30, 1995, becomes eligible for an "Early Bird Draw." The prize is for one night's accommodation and a complimentary brunch. Grand Lodge will add an additional complimentary night's accommodation.

Simply call 1-800-661-1657 to make your reservation and advise the hotel that you are with the Grand Lodge of Alberta. Your name will then be entered for the "Early Bird Draw." Good Luck! You could be attending the Annual Communication for free!

Elected Positions For Grand Lodge

New forms (Form 170) are available from Lodge secretaries for all those who are nominated for Grand Lodge office. If you wish to nominate someone, or a Brother aspires to an office and obtains a nomination, be sure the correct form is completed. The form which SHALL include a short biography, must be in the Grand Lodge Office prior to 12 noon on the last working day of February.

New Sale Item

The Grand Lodge Office is obtaining a supply of quality golf shirts (some with pockets, some without) in a variety of colours and sizes. The Shirts will discretely have the square and compasses on them. Should you be interested, please contact the Grand Lodge Office.

Spring Workshop Speaker

W Bro. Tim Vandenbrink, PM Dominion Lodge, is the theme speaker at the 30th Masonic Spring Workshop at the Lodge at Kananaskis, April 21 to 23, 1995. W Bro. Vandenbrink, Captain of Community Relations for Edmonton's Emergency Response Department, developed the *Plan to Get Out Alive* program, widely sponsored by Macdonalds Restaurants. He is also an motivational speaker who gives about 200 addresses each year. His address — *Change Starts With You!* — will cover such topics as Masonic and home life, finding time for both, changing your thinking and your attitude towards change.

Applications for the 1995 Workshop were printed in the November **Bulletin** and are also available from the Grand Lodge Office, senior Grand Lodge Officers and DDGMs. There is an **Early Bird Draw** — a weekend for two at the Lodge at Kananaskis — for those who register before March 17, 1995. Get your registration in soon.

A lot of excellent Masonry is reflected in the book *Alberta Workshop*: theme speeches from the first 25 years. This book makes an excellent gift to a newly initiated Mason — replacing the Claudys many Lodges have given in the past. Copies of *Alberta Workshop* may be obtained for \$15 (plus S&H) from the MSWPC, Box 265, Didsbury, Alberta T0M 0W0. Phone 403-335-4384, Fax 403-335-2398.

The Vacant Chair

Over 120 members, visitors and family members witnessed a very solemn and dignified memorial service ceremony by the officers and members of Glenbow Lodge on November 2, 1994 at King George Masonic Hall in Calgary.

The ceremony of the vacant chair was started by army veterans in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia in 1922. These Masons of AIF (Australian Imperial Forces) Memorial Lodge commemorated the April 25, 1915 attack of Australian and New Zealand troops at Gallipoli, Greece. The ceremony now includes other Australian naval and military lodges. A famous Australian Mason and early pilot, **Sir Charles Kingsford Smith** is now honoured during the Australian ceremony.

The Glenbow ceremony honoured **W Bro. Charles A. Ball**, who was the founding Master of Glenbow Lodge for 1961 and 1962 and was also Master of Crescent Lodge in 1952. Decorating the chair was a horse blanket of Lord Strathcona's Light Horse Regiment adorned with medals from **W Bro. Bud Wheat**, Past Master of Glenbow and the apron of **W Bro. Ball**.

This occasion was also the Fraternal Visit of **MW Bro. Ray Burton**, Grand Master. He was accompanied by **MW Bro. Bob Costigan**, **MW Bro. Dave Bruce**, **RW Bro. Gordon Macaulay**, **RW Bro. Gordon Kelso**, **RW Bro. Harold Glanzer**, **VW Bro. Stan Pearson**, **VW Bro. Ben Niven**, **VW Bro. Walter Woodward**, and **Bro. David Hongisto**.



The evening also included a presentation of a Fifty Year Jewel to **RW Bro. Clyde H. Elford** by **MW Bro. Ray Burton** and **VW Bro. Jim Fowlie**, shown with **Bro. Eric Astell**, **WM**.

The ceremony also included participation by the **Al Azhar Chanters**, **Miss Bobby-Jo Astell** of Job's Daughters and, under the direction of **Bro. Sgt. Scott Mason**, a Military Honour Guard, just recently returned to Canada from UN peace-keeping duties in Bosnia.

Submitted by **Bro. Bob Millsap**, **GL Bulletin**

Special Occasion

Perfection Lodge, Calgary, will be holding its 100th Installation Ceremony on January 3, 1995. An invitation is extended to all who can attend.

Did You Know?

Home From Home In Britain

A letter was recently received by our Grand Secretary from Canada Lodge No. 3527 on the Register of the United Grand Lodge of England.

In part it said, "I enclose a summons for our next meeting which happens to be our installation. We shall continue to send you summonses of all our future meetings, as we did for so many years in the past.

We do this as, being an 'Ambassador' Lodge in the English constitution, we have created a Masonic Home from Home for Canadian Brethren visiting this country. Accordingly we would wish to have our existence known as widely as possible [so that] any Brother coming over here could contact us to enable us to give him a truly Masonic welcome.

We have been in existence for some 75 years and many eminent Canadians have joined our ranks and have become our Worshipful Master and some have achieved higher honours. We still have some 18 members spread over Canada, the USA and even Australia with whom we have continuous contact.

On behalf of our Worshipful Master, (who incidentally is resident in Montreal and comes over for our meetings) Wardens and Brethren, I send warmest fraternal greetings and good wishes to your Grand Master and the Brethren of your constitution."

Canada Lodge No. 3527, UGLE meets at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London WC2.

Alberta Brethren should contact the Grand Lodge office in Calgary for information on meetings, should they intend to visit the United Kingdom.

Fiat Lux To Host Eminent Masonic Speaker

Former Grand Chaplain of the United Grand Lodge of England, Prestonian Lecturer and Past Master of Quatuor Coronati, the Premier Research Lodge of the World, **Very Worshipful Brother, The Reverend Neville B. Cryer** will be in Calgary to address Fiat Lux Lodge of Research, No. 1980 on March 25, 1995.

Having already written ten books on Christian or biographical subjects, he then authored three major histories of Freemasonry and published seven books about Lodge buildings in England, Wales and Scotland. **VW Bro. Cryer** is currently writing on the Mark and Ark Mariner bodies. He will also publish a complete 700 year history of the Cornwallis family.

VW Bro. Cryer will be visiting a number of cities in Canada in a brief tour and it is a rare opportunity for Alberta Masons to hear another outstanding speaker from Britain. The title of his presentation is not yet available but should be of broad Masonic interest.

Brethren may immediately reserve places for this exciting Masonic experience by calling the Fiat Lux Secretary-Treasurer, **RW Bro. Tom Hargreaves** at 403-282-8091 (home) or 269-7486 (business). Please note, to defray costs, a charge will be made for attendance and the usual Banquet which follows.

Historical Park Lodges

The Editor was pleased to receive two articles on the value of being a volunteer at each of our historical Lodges, one in Fort Edmonton Park, the other in Heritage Park, Calgary. Let the articles tell their own stories.

Fort Edmonton Park

Like some of the other Brethren in Avon Glen, I recently spent a day at the Masonic Hall at Fort Edmonton Park. Many questions originated from the fact that there is an open Bible on the Altar in the Lodge. Some visitors had the notion that Freemasonry is a religion and considerable discussion sometimes resulted when I explained that Freemasonry was not a religion. We sometimes discussed the fact that Masons believe in God, a Supreme Being, and in the immortality of the soul but that how he chooses to worship God is up to each Mason's own conscience. Religious tolerance is a basic part of Freemasonry. Prayers are addressed to God the Father, so that a mixed group of Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Muslims, as well as other religions, can relate those prayers to their own forms of religious practices.

A group of Jewish visitors to the hall was particularly interesting to talk with. One member of the group, while not a Mason himself, had a grandfather who was a Mason. When another of the group stated that Freemasonry was a religion, he quickly interjected, "Oh no, not at all" and then proceeded accurately to explain the relationship between religion and Freemasonry. Shortly after that, a member of the group, referring to the open Bible on the Altar, said, "Then you have to be a Christian to be a Mason." Again the response from the more knowledgeable member of the group was, "No, Masons are probably the most tolerant group in the world when it comes to religion." It was gratifying to hear such a positive attitude toward Freemasonry from someone who was not himself a Mason.

Another couple, members of a fundamentalist group, were also very interested in the open Bible. Again the discussion moved to the relationship between Freemasonry and religion. The lady asked, "Does Freemasonry provide a plan for salvation?" When I replied that it did not, she seemed to be somewhat disturbed. She asked what would happen if a non-Christian asked that his Holy Book also be placed on the Altar. When I replied that this would be done she again appeared to be somewhat disturbed. They were a very pleasant couple and I very much enjoyed the time that they spent with me. While their knowledge of Freemasonry was somewhat limited, what they had heard about Freemasonry inclined them to react, for the most part,

positively. They did have problems with the religious tolerance which is very much a part of Freemasonry.

Permitting all people to worship God as they see fit makes it possible for all people to live together in freedom, including the freedom from fear of persecution for religious reasons. Masons believe in democratic religious freedom while insisting on moral conduct.

Bro. John Robinson, in his book *A Pilgrim's Path*, suggests the idea that the fact that some of the Founding Fathers of the United States were Masons resulted in the decision that the United States would have no state religion, leaving all people free to worship God as they saw fit.

There were many other questions asked that day, "Why do you have two stones and why is one rough and one smooth?" "Can I go into this room?" "I've heard that women aren't allowed in Masonic Halls?" "Can I sit in that big chair in the front?" But it was the questions about the open Bible and the relationship between religion and Freemasonry that occupied my thoughts on the way home that day.

Fred Klapstein, Worshipful Master,
Avon Glen Lodge, Edmonton

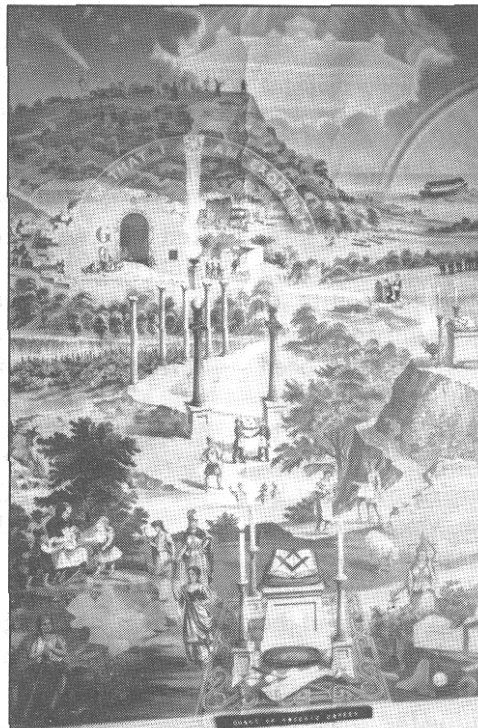
Heritage Park, Calgary

Bro. Roger Anderson and **RW Bro. Vic Ramsbottom** were volunteers from Carstairs Lodge to be at the Heritage Park Lodge Hall in Calgary for four days. Many people enjoy this involvement but these two Brothers had such an exciting day they thought it worth sharing.

Over their four days they had 1,447 adults and children recorded — and some get away without signing! Among the adults were 46 Masons who conversed at length with Bros. Anderson and Ramsbottom. The exciting thing was speaking to those from different countries, discussing the principles of the Craft and trying to allay the fears of those who had completely incorrect information about the Order.

There were requests from some Masons for copies or photographs of some of the historical charts displayed. Photographs were, of course, sent by Bro. Ramsbottom, who is willing to photograph anything, — a copy of one is shown here.

Masonry thanks its volunteers in the many areas of the community, whether it be at a Masonic location, as a cancer patient driver, delivering Meals on Wheels, manning community museums, donating blood, helping in reading programs or the many other areas in which Masons give their time, effort and love for their fellow man. Why not make a New Year's resolution to volunteer in the name of Masonry?



Lessons From Geese

As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for others behind it. There is 71 per cent more flying range in V-formation than flying alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of common purpose can get to their designated goal a lot faster.

Whenever a goose flies out of formation, it quickly feels the drag and tries to get back into position.

Lesson: It's harder to do something alone than together. If we as Masons work as a group or as a team, our combined efforts will be much more rewarding for all concerned.

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the head.

Lesson: Shared leadership and interdependence gives us each a chance to lead as well as opportunity to rest.

The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking is encouraging and not discouraging. Encouragement to the WM and officers of the Lodge and your support to Grand Lodge is the best policy.

When a goose gets sick or wounded and falls, two geese fall out and stay with it until it revives or dies. Then they catch up or join another flock.

Lesson: Stand by your colleagues in difficult times as well as in good. Consider visitation or other communication with the sick, the elderly, the widows, and non-attending members.

MW Bro. Charles Ramsay adapted from Angeles Arrien

Call For Papers For *The Alberta Masonic Research Award*

Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980, through a proposal by its Immediate Past Master, RW Bro. Jack McGregor, has recently announced its sponsorship of an annual research paper competition tentatively entitled *The Alberta Masonic Research Award*. This competition is open to all Master Masons from any jurisdiction in amity with the Grand Lodge of Alberta. The paper must not have been published or formally presented before, other than a "dress rehearsal." Right of first publication must be granted to Fiat Lux. All papers will be reviewed by a committee and those deemed worthy, whether winners or not, may be published in the Fiat Lux publication, *Vox Lucis*. The committee reserves the right to make, or not to make, one of two award levels to papers: *Award of Excellence* and *Award of Merit*. Deadline for submission is May 15, and the adjudicators' decisions will be announced at the September meeting. Late papers may be held over to the following year. (Please note that at the time of writing the final rules were yet subject to approval by Fiat Lux Lodge of Research, but are expected to be finalized shortly; watch the Bulletin for possible revisions.) For more complete details and an entrant's package, contact RW Bro. Tom Hargreaves, Secretary-Treasurer, 2804 Conrad Drive, NW, Calgary, AB T2L 1B4, Phone 282-8091(H) or 269-7486(B).

Britannia Lodge, Ponoka, Celebrates 90 Years

On October 15, 1994, Britannia Lodge celebrated its 90th Anniversary, and celebrate they did!

The paint was only just dry on their newly renovated hall in Ponoka, when they welcomed their own and visiting brethren. Seventy-eight were in attendance at their commemorative meeting, with 16 officers, 28 other members and 24 visitors from 20 different Lodges and the visitors included many Grand Lodge Officers. Britannia Lodge Hall was originally funded through the benevolence of Bro. Fritz Bacher, who died in 1951, and his wife Augusta. Much of the funding for the recent major renovations, which include an expansion to the entrance and some other major changes, new carpeting and lighting, was paid out of an endowment left by Bro. George Harrod, who died in 1992.

Highlights of the afternoon included, under the expert direction of W Bro. John Alexander, a touching memorial service to all departed brethren of the Lodge, with a rose and scripture passage presented for those who had passed to the Grand Lodge Above of each decade. W Bro. Harry Noble presented a short History of the Lodge and a beautiful, professionally bound, 230 page, limited edition volume entitled, *Britannia Lodge No. 18, the First 90 Years*, which he has spent the last 2½ years preparing. Copies were presented, firstly, to W Bro. Donald G. Jardine, oldest active Past Master and secondly, to MW Bro. Ray Burton, GM.

It was W Bro. Jardine who made the beautiful lambskin white and blue Masonic stained glass lights in the Lodge room, about 6 years ago. He also made similar lights for Freemasons' Halls in Edmonton and Forestburg. In addition he funded the brand new Master's chair, crafted by Bro. James Mark.

(Copies of the History may be ordered through W Bro. Ken McLean, Secretary, Britannia Lodge, 5115 - 60th Avenue, Ponoka, AB, T4J 1E9, at \$50 per copy.)

During the Lodge meeting, the ladies were entertained with a fashion show, hosted by WBros. Bill Bowie and Roy Barrett. The evening culminated in a well attended banquet and dance, with the ladies, at the Kinsmens Community and Recreation Centre with 138 in attendance. Brethren, this was just their 90th anniversary. I strongly suggest you mark your calendars NOW for their 100th in 2004!

Submitted by Bro. Peter Proudlock, GL Bulletin.

Smile A Bit

There's a new golf game for computers that is so realistic that, if you listen carefully, you can hear doctors being paged.

Computers will never replace office workers completely. For one thing, computers are technologically incapable of starting rumours.

'To err is human — to blame it on a computer is even more so'

(The Minnesota Mason)

Award Made To Alberta Freemasons

At the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Cancer Society, Alberta Division, a plaque was awarded to the Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M. in recognition of the work carried out by retired Masons in the volunteer drivers' section. These men form the largest active part of this unit.

Cancer as we know, strikes people of every age and sex and, while press and television media focus on the more prevalent forms, such as breast cancer among women and prostate cancer among men, it also appears in all body organs.

Medical treatment for this disease covers surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. These procedures can stretch out over many weeks and patients, who are ill and have no access to private transportation, are so very vulnerable.

At this point, the volunteer drivers enter the picture and I am often reminded of those three words: *Faith, Hope* and *Charity*. Faith, because it is a reflection of our devotion to a Supreme Architect and encourages us to help others. Hope, because this allows us to lean across that dark chasm and offer our friendship, kindness, concern and help to those who are in fear and pain in their fight for life. Charity, because this is the physical transportation of these patients and allows us to exercise these acts of time and effort, that are so needed in this vital work

I ask any brother, who has set aside the tools of daily employment, to consider if he could spare a few hours a week to help in this most needed service. Contact **Bro. Karl Hansen** at 281-4549 or **Bro. Bob McNeill** at 283-3842.

Submitted by Bro. Bob McNeill

Badlands Passion Play

There are now five fixed dates — more will be added if warranted — July 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9, 1995. The play is approximately two and one-half hours in length commencing at 2:00 PM. The cost is \$15.00 for adults, children are half price. Groups of 15 or more receive a 10 per cent discount (\$13.50 each). Box Office opens on January 16th, 1995 for reservations. (403-823-7750)

Correction

[Corrections now seem to be included as a Regular Item!]

The Rose Bowl Parade is on January 2, 1995 due to New Year's Day being a Sunday. Look for that Masonic float on the MONDAY!

Recognition

On October 12, 1994, **Bro. Jim Berry**, WM of Dominion Lodge, Edmonton, together with **RW Bro. Wes Dutnall**, DDGM of Athabasca District, recognised 30 members of the Lodge with Twenty-five Year Pins and certificates. While not all the recipients were able to attend, the brethren of the Lodge enthusiastically congratulated all recipients for a total of 750 years of involvement in the Craft.

Discussion In The Lodge Room

When you have the **BRIEF** business component out of the way and there are no degrees, why not have a discussion? Why a discussion and not just a paper? Unless the brethren know a lot about the topic or it is extremely controversial, the paper is given and, after a couple of questions, the evening is over. How many people have been involved? Most of the officers — but not all — in the opening and closing. The Secretary and the Worshipful Master deal with most of the business, with perhaps a couple of movers and seconders of motions. The speaker gives his material and perhaps there are two questioners. That does not sound too interesting, when spelled out that way, and there is little doubt that it is a contributing factor to explain why many brethren only attend Lodge on "interesting" evenings, or even stop coming.

The small group discussion can involve everyone as long as the talkers are clearly limited in the length and frequency of their involvement. If someone dominates the discussion — you do not have a discussion! What are the topics to be discussed? Everything Masonic and any permissible non-Masonic subjects.

In particular, there should be regular discussions on the ritual and the meaning of paragraphs, or even sentences, that should have an impact on the members. How do people interpret these segments, how are they translated into everyday living, how do they affect the dealings with others?

There can be discussion of the lessons a new Mason should be taught and how they could best be taught; on protocol in the particular Lodge and how to carry out parts of the ceremonies and ritual; on procedures for greeting visitors and invited guests; on how to run the meetings; and on finding topics for discussion. The range is immense and can lead to group planning beyond the wildest dreams of any Worshipful Master. The committees would be inundated with ideas rather than seeking just one new idea.

Just think how anything is planned — a group gets together and begins to develop the idea in free discussion. The trouble is that a catalyst is needed, in the person of an organizer, for any sort of discussion, whether it be in small groups reporting back to the Lodge or the Lodge as a whole.

Is there someone in your Lodge who, with the Worshipful Master's blessing, can accept a challenge of being the organizer of discussion groups? Is it **YOU**?

The Editor

