



Grand Lodge Bulletin

Vol. 60: No. 2

Editor, RW Bro. Norman J. Senn

February 1995

Tomorrow Begins A New, Untried Day

Do you feel, some days, that you "got up on the wrong side of the bed" — that everything had gone wrong? Think back to how you started it. Did you get up scowling, complaining, grumbling — dreading what was ahead of you? That is a pretty good way to be sure you will have a miserable day.

The first hour after we get up usually sets the pace for the day. The way we act and the things we say and do, during this time, usually indicate whether our day will be happy and fruitful or miserable and frustrating. Words that are spoken and attitudes that are shown, in the first few minutes, can set the pattern for the whole day. They can be the key for making the day serene, cheerful and full of accomplishment — or unhappy and fruitless.

It is important for us to begin our day on a positive note. Every morning, we should experience a thrill of excitement, a feeling of anticipation as we enter a new day. With the dawn we are offered the opportunity of making new beginnings.

John Ruskin said, "Let every dawn of morning be to you as the beginning of life, and every setting sun be to you as its close; then let every one of these short lives leave its sure record of some kindly thing done for others, some goodly strength or knowledge gained for yourself."

Faith, hope and optimism, their possibilities are limitless.

Dr. John Wood Robinson
The Minnesota Mason

Long, Long Ago

We have had much conjecture as to the date Freemasonry made its first contacts in Canada. From time to time, ancient relics, old time manuscripts, diaries and journals have come to light and thus replaced fable and legend with documented evidence. This is not the story of the written word but it holds an interest for those who are

searching for Masonic evidences of bygone days.

In 1827, on the shores of Goat Island, in the Bay of Annapolis, a slab of rock measuring 2½ feet by 2 feet, partly buried in sand, was found. Upon this were chiselled deep the square and compasses and, underneath, the date 1606.

Professor John H. Graham, in his **Outlines of the History of Freemasonry in the Province of Quebec**, commenting on this discovery, points out that in 1604, under the leadership of the Huguenot, De Monts, Poutrincourt and Champlain sailed from France to found a colony in Acadia and, after exploring the coast of New England, they sailed up the Bay of Fundy and, on the picturesque shores of the Bay of Annapolis, they laid the foundation of Port Royal — now Annapolis.

Is it not highly probable that the slab of stone, found on Goat Island, was originally embedded by the De Monts expedition in some "habitation" or fort they built there? If the date has any significance, it would suggest that there were Masons in Canada 150 years before Wolfe's soldiers reached Quebec.

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From the Quarterly Letter of the UGLE

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What Freemasonry Means...

Freemasonry is not — nor has it ever been — a “from-the-top-down” institution. Freemasonry is a state of mind, a pattern of habits, a life-long witness, a commitment to responsibilities — in short, the personal acceptance of the noble principles of brotherly love, relief and truth by individuals, to whom prudence, temperance, fortitude and justice apply in all that they do. Masonic Renewal then, as it is necessary and, as it is to be achieved, is from the “bottom-up” — a grass roots effort to which every Brother can and must make a contribution.

Bro. Juggi Uppal, WM, Crescent Lodge No. 87

Hiram's Monologue

For a lecture in history, during a meeting in April, Bro. Kevan van Herd, of St. George's Lodge, acted as Hiram Abif, who is hard at work at his drawing table when the phone rings!!

The monologue is a fictitious, one-sided telephone conversation with Hiram's good friend Adda Adoniram who is calling from Lebanon.

The conversation was humorous, as well as instructional, since many lessons Masons learn in the first degree were discussed. This monologue also proved that one side of a phone conversation CAN be interesting!

St. George's Banner, BC.

[Editor's Note: How about someone in your Lodge, or a group, creating a similar phone call?]

Clangers Heard In Lodge

This is a natural topic to follow the one above! Each one of us has that moment when the right word disappears, or our tongue has become tied and the wrong words come out. If you have some choice “clangers”, send them in to the Editor. The best will be published but no acknowledgement of the Lodge will be made to avoid embarrassment.

Here are four to start:

“...from a fellow brothercraft.”

“...the lessons incalculated...”

“...on the square of the compasses.”

“...you will preform the duties of your office.”

Acknowledgement goes to those who clanged!

Grand Master's Itinerary

February

- 1 Beaver Lodge, Castor
- 2 Board of General Purposes Meeting, 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

March

- 1 Balmoral Lodge, St. Albert
- 2 Ivanhoe Lodge, Edmonton Freemasons' Hall
- 6 Mountain View Lodge, Olds
- 7 Gleichen Lodge, Gleichen
- 9 Bassano Lodge, Bassano
- 13 Renfrew Lodge, Calgary Freemasons' Hall
- 14 Crossfield Lodge, Crossfield
- 16 Acme Lodge, Acme
- 17-19 All Canada Conference, Winnipeg
- 21 Palestine Lodge, Tofield
- 25 Loyalty Lodge, PPCLI Officers Mess, Calgary

Yellowknife Visit With The Grand Master

The Grand Master will be visiting Yellowknife and will be leaving Calgary on the 7:45 am flight on Friday, April 28, 1995. For those who wish to stay less time in Yellowknife, there is another flight on Saturday at 6:35 am. Edmonton brethren can pick up these same flights at the Edmonton International at 9:00 am and 8:00 am respectively. The return trip leaves Yellowknife at 5:00 pm on the Sunday. The Grand Master would welcome as many brethren and their ladies as possible to accompany him.

The latest information on this trip is that the airfare, from both Calgary and Edmonton, is \$474.68, including taxes (\$427.86 if you are over 60). Accommodation is at the Explorer Inn and the room rate, single or double, is \$95.00 plus GST per night (regular rate \$152.00). Please book NOW, if you wish to go, as there are a limited number of seats available. Contact Bro. Marv Foote at 403-289-1817 or the Grand Secretary at 403-262-1149, for further information and reservations.

Responsibility For Nominations To Grand Lodge

If you are a voting member of Grand Lodge, have you considered who is the best person to serve in each of the many elected positions required to assist in the operation of YOUR Grand Lodge? When we reach the time of election, will it be your fault if there is no name or it is a matter of acclamation without a true election? While we seem to be fortunate that those who have been acclaimed to positions in the past have been competent, there is no guarantee

of this for the future. It will be too late after the event to say, "I should have nominated..."

It is these elected officers and members of Boards and Committees who will influence the direction of YOUR Grand Lodge in the critical years ahead. Do not be one of the apathetic people who wait for others to take the action — accept the opportunity you now have to nominate one of the many highly competent members of the Craft for an elected office NOW and then sit back contented that you have done your part in the process.

Membership: Board Of General Purposes

This is the place where you can feel the pulse of Masonry in Alberta and have some influence on keeping the heart beating. It is like being at the parliament of the Craft. Through this Board come all major decisions made within the Craft, either as proposals from the members or as Committee reports proposing action. All financial decisions are presented to the Board with the recommendations from the Finance Committee and the Grand Treasurer. The operation of the Grand Lodge office is regularly explained by the Grand Secretary in his reports. The Board discusses, amends, refers and rejects items presented to it and sometimes, following strong discussion, reconsiders actions taken by others or contravention of our Constitution and Regulations. Every member has the opportunity to present arguments for and against every issue but repetitive argument is actively discouraged. The Board is truly a place where members feel the importance of their contributions. They later can see the results of their efforts in changes in the Craft.

There are three meetings required by Regulations but more can be called — these are normally held in Red Deer with the final meeting at the location of the Grand Lodge Communication. The Board always commences and concludes with prayer and all matters are conducted in an harmonious and constructive manner.

The President and Vice-President, appointed from amongst the elected members, act on the Executive Committee between meetings and can be quite busy. Sub-committees can also be extremely busy but the work is both worthwhile and rewarding. The Board is an exciting place to be, where you will find many involved and concerned Masons. Perhaps the greatest thing is that friendships are forged here that will last a lifetime.

A Member

What Do Masons Do

It is not because Masons have stopped doing things that there is no article this month — it is because they forget to inform the Editor. PLEASE have someone in your lodge write in about the things you are doing in your community to be good citizens. It is not only for your brethren to applaud you, it is to gain ideas on the sort of things that can be done by others. Your idea may be the stimulus to further good. Remember that the words you are now reading were written in early December — so give some time for your item to appear.

The Meaning Of Words

Our ritual explains "The furniture of the Lodge is the volume of the Sacred Law, the Square and the Compasses."

"Oh Horrors!" gasps the anti-Mason. "They're calling the Bible a piece of furniture, just like a chair!" And once again the anti-Mason's misunderstanding of Masonic vocabulary rears its head.

An older meaning of "furniture" (and the meaning it has in Masonry) is "essential equipment" or "essential material." The VOSL is, quite literally, furniture for a Lodge, because a Lodge cannot legally meet without it — it is essential.

The tendency of anti-Masons to become excited over Masonic vocabulary is not without its humorous side. Many of them fulminate over Masonry's use of the term "Great Architect of the Universe" as a description of God. They claim it is sacrilege to use any term but "God" for God, while singing hymns in which He is referred to as "Font of Every Blessing," "Father of Mankind," "Lord of All," and "Almighty King." Being unaware that the term was brought into Masonry by Anderson from the writings of John Calvin, they insist that Masonry "made up" the term "Great Architect of the Universe." Most importantly, of course, they overlook the fact that any term used to refer to the Deity is merely a description of some of His qualities. The limited human language cannot describe or define the unlimited nature of God.

Excerpt from the *Scottish Rite Journal*, May 1994

Went To Lodge

Went to Lodge the other night, first time this year. Couple of my friends were there, they said "Hi." The Worshipful Master was too busy with the Secretary to speak. He's been Master before, so he needed some time to prepare his meeting.

Meeting opened with same ritual as always. Five officers were missing, so had three Past Masters fill the important chairs, the other two were left blank. Had seven sideliners but couldn't fill the Chaplain and Director of Ceremony's chairs. Only fill the seats with Past Masters. Must be some ruling on this, I guess.

Secretary read the minutes, a couple of bills, and the Master said he was glad we all came. Going to have a Past Masters' Dinner next month. Tickets would be \$20.00 each, and wives welcome. Past Masters and their wives would be free as we are honouring them.

Wonder if we ever honour a member who has paid dues for 40 years, never been asked to hold an office but been faithful to the Lodge.

Sat with my two friends for the coffee and donuts after the meeting. Most exciting thing that happened was a Past Grand Master chewing the butt off the Senior Deacon for screwing up the opening. Said he wasn't going to advance in the chairs as we don't allow sloppy work.

Got a Lodge meeting tonight; don't think I'll go, my recliner is much more comfortable than those Lodge chairs.

Anyway — no one will miss me.

Anonymous

Same Time Next Year!

It is really interesting to note how dedicated many Masons are, when it comes to visiting their mother Lodge. Such a member is W Bro. Tony Trettick (86 years young), who makes a point of visiting Peace River Lodge, the Lodge into which he was initiated in June of 1944. W Bro. Trettick now resides in Victoria BC but he makes a point of coming back to his Peace River Lodge at least once a year. This year was special as, on his visit, the brethren gathered informally to present him with his 50 year Jewel, pin and Certificate. He was WM in 1950 and made a Life member in 1991. Congratulations, W. Bro. Trettick and may you visit for many years to come.

Submitted by VW Bro. John Gamble, Secretary.



(l-r) Bro. George Pratt; RW Bro. Rod McRae; RW Bro. Ted Umbach; WM Paul Thompson; W Bro. Tony Trettick, Bro. Fred Fox (94) and VW Bro. John Gamble.

Response To The Toast To The Visitors

Distinguished Brethren All. I thank you, Worshipful Master, for giving me the opportunity to respond to the Toast to the Visitors this evening. When I have heard this Toast given or responded to, I almost always hear the same thing. Things like, "Visiting is a great Masonic privilege"; "Visiting is one of the most important parts of Masonry"; and "We are always delighted to see Visitors in our Lodge."

I, often, at this point, think to myself — if visiting is all that important and wonderful, why do so few of us do it? Tonight of course is an exception and thank goodness for Grand Masters!

There are, I suspect, a number of reasons, the first of course being that, in this day and age, we have only a certain amount of time to devote to any on-going project, including Masonry.

There is, however, I feel, a deeper, more serious reason. How many times have you visited a Lodge and spent most of the evening by yourself? How many time have you visited a Lodge where you were not known, hoping to be made feel like a Brother but come away feeling like a stranger?

Or even worse, can you remember the last time some-

one from out of town or from another district visited your Lodge and perhaps, on the way home, or the next morning, you realized you made no effort to meet him and don't even remember his name?

How many times, after an initiation, does some well-skilled Brother inform the new Brother that, as soon as possible, he should visit another Lodge to see a First Degree performed in order to get a better idea of what it was all about?

The new Brother is excited about the prospect but it never happens, because it was only words. Worshipful Master, it is my sincere belief that, if, in fact, visiting is all that important to Masonry — and I believe it is — then it is long past the time that we stopped talking about it and started doing something about it.

Would the visiting Brethren charge their glasses, rise and join me in a toast to our gracious hosts.

RW Bro. William Morrison

Response to the Toast of the Visitors

Victory Lodge No. 94, 11 November 1993

The Journal, Quebec

30th Masonic Spring Workshop

21, 22 & 23 April 1995

The Lodge at Kananaskis

Time For A Change

Tentative Program

Friday, 21 April 1995

3:00 PM Registration
Book Store & Screening Room Open

5:00 PM Buffet Dinner

7:30 PM Welcome

7:45 PM Draws & Theme Address

Book Store & Screening Room Open

Change Begins With You

Tim Vandenbrink

11:00 PM Book Store & Screening Room Close

Saturday, 22 April 1995

6:00 AM Pool open to Masons

7:00 AM Buffet Breakfast Opens

8:00 AM Book Store & Screening Room Open

9:00 AM Schools for Instruction* (choice of 3)

10:00 AM Coffee Break

10:30 AM Schools for Instruction* (choice of 3)

11:30 AM Photo of 30th Anniversary Participants

Noon Buffet Lunch, Peaks Dining Room

2:00 PM Schools for Instruction* (choice of 3)

3:00 PM Free Time

6:00 PM Dinner

8:00 PM Draws & Entertainment

The Popovich Family

11:00 PM Book Store & Screening Room Close

Sunday, 23 April 1995

8:15 AM Chairman's Closing Remarks

8:30 AM Devotional Service — Jim Roberts

9:00 AM Buffet Breakfast & Departure

* Six schools are planned for the weekend, some of which will be repeated.