



# Grand Lodge Bulletin

Vol. 60: No. 4

Editor, RW Bro. Norman J. Senn

April 1995

## Grand Master's Comments

How often have we used an hour-glass to measure time and have noticed how quickly the sand falls through the aperture and how quickly the required length of time has arrived.

So has gone my year. It seems, to me, just a mere twinkling of an eye from my installation until the convening of the Annual Grand Communication, which signals the termination of my year in office.

May I take this opportunity to express, to each Mason, my sincere thank you for the honour and privilege of serving as your Grand Master.

In my inaugural address, a scant year ago, I stated that being only one person, I could not, and did not, for a moment, believe that I could accomplish everything alone but, with the help of the total membership, I felt confident in the continued growth of our beloved fraternity and its impact on our society.

Since making that statement, I am extremely pleased to be able to say that the support I have received from the Past Grand Masters, Grand Lodge Officers and members of

Constituent Lodges has been, to put it mildly, fantastic. As I travelled this great Jurisdiction, the warmth, hospitality and friendship was overwhelming.

Brethren, the visits with friends and Brothers will always be my fondest memories and, as the years continue to slip by relentlessly, these memories will become even more meaningful and pleasurable.

I am pleased with the many community projects being undertaken by the various Lodges; the pride taken by some Lodges in the upgrading of their buildings; the interest in the welfare of their older Brethren and the widows; the adoption of the COMELY Program, which is bringing Brethren back to the Lodge; the monetary support given to the Masonic Higher Education Bursary; the "We Care" Program and the Alberta Masonic Foundation.

My only regrets were my inability to attend each Lodge and the many functions to which I was invited. Your kind invitations will always be remembered and cherished.

Brethren, I am convinced that our fraternity is vibrant and will remain so in the future. With dedicated Masons such as you, we shall succeed.

Ray Burton, Grand Master

## The Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is our most visible Committee, no doubt because it deals with that commodity which is on our minds every day — MONEY.

The membership is composed of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary and six members appointed by the Grand Master from the Board of General Purposes — three each year for a two year term. This particular membership allows for continuity in the pattern and direction of the management of our financial affairs.

The Committee meets quarterly (or more often, if required), to prepare budgets, monitor income and expenditure, and to allocate and review investments.

Annual budgets are prepared by a sub-committee under the chairmanship of the Finance Committee's Vice-Chairman (one of his qualities must

be a thick skin). A major portion of the sub-committee's time is related to the budget, as each item of income and expenditure is scrutinized and discussed. The budgets are based on administrative and operational needs and the generated income. This sub-committee pays careful attention to the Auditor's Report and his comments and adopts recommended changes.

The Committee has been fortunate in having members who have worked together to bring about needed changes. As with any group whose members are from diverse

backgrounds, problems are tackled from different viewpoints and discussions can be warm and tasty! It is probably correct to say that, though each member of the Committee may have his own idea as to "how", they all agree that the point is to provide the Craft with a smoothly operating, cost-effective Grand Lodge office at the best possible price.

## Think About It

Christopher Columbus was the world's most remarkable salesman. He started out not knowing where he was going. When he got there, he didn't know where he was. When he returned, he didn't know where he had been. He did all this on borrowed money and then managed to get a repeat order.

Grand Lodge of Alaska

### The Grand Lodge Bulletin

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 Bro. Bob Millsap; Bro. Trevor Morris;  
 W Bro. Dick Reynolds; W Bro. Bev Snyder; Bro. Peter Proudlock

Members have come from urban and rural areas and have usually had some experience with financial and administrative work. Try telling a farmer, who is successful and alive in today's world, that he doesn't have the needed background and you could be in for real trouble!

The Committee would hope that the Brethren would communicate their ideas to modify, change and improve our financial affairs. Every year the Committee waits for the letters, which do not arrive. The Committee needs your input as well as your involvement. Let your name stand for the Board of General Purposes and make the Grand Master or his officers aware of your wish for a seat on this Committee.

All the rumours you may have heard about the Finance Committee members being "committed" after their term, are not true. They may take a long vacation somewhere, but it isn't to a certain central Alberta hospital.

A member of the Finance Committee

## Grand Master's Itinerary

### April

21-23 Masonic Spring Workshop, Kananaskis

26 Onoway Lodge, Onoway

29-30 Yellowknife Lodge, Yellowknife

### May

2 Mosaic Lodge, Crescent

4 Lake Saskatoon Lodge, Wembley

8 Fidelity Lodge, Bashaw

10 Griesbach Lodge, Acacia

11 Board of General Purposes, Red Deer

11 Lochearn Lodge, Rocky Mountain House

18 Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper

## Clangers

During the AYR step lecture referring to the orders of architecture — "...and to these the Russians have added two..."

Referring to the lights — "...and the three lesser blights, the sun, the moon..."

*Thanks go to those who clanged and to those who heard them and sent word to the Editor.*

## Letters To The Editor

*The article in the February issue of the Bulletin, relating to a visit to a Lodge that left a Brother preferring to stay at home, stimulated a lot of reaction. There were two types of responses. Many said, "Yes, I know Lodges like that, and am glad I'm not a member there." Others commented more in the vein of the letter printed below.*

An item in the February issue of the **Bulletin** merits comment. Entitled, *Went to Lodge*, and submitted by "Anonymous," it describes an uninspiring Lodge meeting and ends with the writer deciding to stay home in the comfort of his easy chair rather than attend the next meeting.

Might I suggest that Bro. Anonymous had more control of the evening's events and his own enjoyment than he might realize? His letter revealed a man who, despite 40 years in Masonry, has missed two fundamental aspects of our fraternity (or, for that matter, of any other human endeavour) — one benefits from an association in proportion to one's own contribution and any group is as good (or bad) as its constituent members.

Assuming the piece was written late last year, his opening admission that it was his first visit of the year speaks volumes about his own level of commitment. He can hardly be judgmental if others share the same attitude. His later complaint about not being especially recognized for paying his dues for 40 years should be put in that perspective.

He missed several opportunities to participate and improve the evening. For instance, he had a wonderful chance to show some brotherly love after the meeting. Having observed the Senior Deacon chastised by a PGM, he could have easily spoken some quiet words of encouragement to the poor Deacon. Bro. Anonymous could have offered to help him before the next meeting and, in doing so, possibly have renewed his own sense of purpose and interest in the Lodge and perhaps made a new friend. Instead, he chose to consider the sorry episode as merely an exciting entertainment and the Deacon, unless of better character than the PGM, was left demoralized and a potential Demit.

His Lodge, without question, is in trouble. Attendance is down, even among the officers; presentation of the ritual is poor enough to warrant strong comment by a PGM and, one suspects, morale is poor. Bro. Anonymous is clearly aware of these and other shortcomings and has two choices: stay at home and gripe, or take an active part in renewal. He has chosen the former — no wonder he didn't want to be identified.

Bro. Bernie MacLean, Kelvingrove Lodge, Calgary.

## Hiram's Monologue

Many asked about the text of the monologue which was originally developed by RW Bro. Wallace McLeod of Starbuck Lodge, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Any Brother wanting to see a copy can contact the Editor for a copy of Bro. McLeod's clever piece of Masonic education.

Even the mechanism has been suggested — at an appropriate time a Brother can phone to the cellular phone resting on Hiram's drawing board.

## That Strikes A Chord

VW Bro. John McKecknie, of Zetland Lodge, Calgary, was visiting his home town (Campbeltown) in Scotland last summer. A Lodge there is Lodge St John's, numbered 141 on the Grand Register of Scotland, which was Constituted in 1776. He was presented with a history of Lodge St. John's, a 200 year Commemorative Jewel and a 1940 copy of the **Complete Manual of Freemasonry** (10<sup>th</sup> Edition), originally published in 1917. This latter publication is what we would know as **The Work**.

While this booklet contains ritual, order of business for Lodge meetings, summaries of the laws of Grand Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodge and Daughter Lodges, it also contains a section on hints for Young Masons.

Bro. McKecknie was particularly drawn to these as they are things that are frequently heard informally but seldom documented in a consolidated form. They are printed below.

### Hints To Young Masons

The young Mason who desires to study the working of the various degrees should bear in mind the following points :

1. Proficiency comes by diligent study.
2. Fluency is the result of constant practice.
3. Clear utterance is desirable at all times. The beautiful phraseology of a charge is frequently marred by indistinctness and a mumbling form of speech.
4. Study the best Masters. Note their emphasis and follow them at all times.
5. Cultivate deliberation in speech. There is no need for hurry. Have confidence in yourself and you will impress the person you are addressing.
6. Begin with a small part and make yourself master of it. Then proceed to a larger part, frequently revising as you progress. Only in this way will ease and proficiency be attained.
7. Tell the Master you would like to be permitted to have a share in the working of a Degree. If the Master knows his business, he will at once grant your request and encourage you to continue to be interested.
8. Be ready at all times to assist the Master. The most successful Lodges are those in which every member is ready and willing to take a share in the work.
9. Be punctual in your attendance. Recognise that the success of the Lodge is in your hands, and that it is your duty to give your Mother your best service.
10. Be ready to take the place of an office bearer who may be absent. He is a happy [WM] who knows that he may call upon any Brother to assist at any time.
11. Never forget that your Mother [Lodge] has a reputation to maintain.
12. Be a Mason always — not only when the Lodge is tyled.

### Correction National Camping Travellers

The article in the March issue of the **Bulletin** contained an incorrect phone number.

Please note, the correct number is 804-420-6829.

## From The Notices

As I am employed with Martin Brothers Funeral Home, I was recently asked by a Brother what to say to a friend who has just lost a loved one. This is my response — I hope it will help you too.

When meeting a friend for the first time after there has been a death close to him, it is appropriate to offer condolences. Keep it very brief and simple, just enough to express sorrow that it happened and then ask a question that will allow the friend to keep his composure. It can be related to the death but not to the feeling of loss. Ask if he plans to move, or if most of the family were able to attend the funeral, or if he plans to go away for a while. If you have privacy and if the death was recent, it's more likely that the person will want to talk of nothing else. There's a Hebrew proverb about "wearing out" grief — if you bottle it up, you'll never soften it. "Give sorrow words:" said Shakespeare "the grief that does not speak whispers the o'er-fraught heart, and bids it break."

Bro. Richard Gammon, WM, Lethbridge Lodge,

## Humour Of The Month

The other day, my long case grandfather clock stopped working. I did all I could to get it restarted without any success. After a great deal of frustration, I stood back to think what to do next. I noticed my Masonic apron on the hall chair where I had put it after the last meeting. I put it on, stood squarely in front of the clock, and said, "by the power vested in me, I demand you to give me the signs of a clock." Then I swung the pendulum. Tick-tock, tick-tock, went the clock and for some strange reason the clock hasn't stopped ticking yet! Now I know the power of a Master Mason.

Historically, long cased clocks, called grandfather clocks, have always been associated with Masonry. Was there not a story that, at some time, a "fair maiden" hid in a grandfather clock and was found by those in attendance at a Masonic meeting? The thought made me quickly check in mine but, alas, I found only dust! Rather a pity!

Bro. Reginald H Smith, Evergreen Lodge, Edmonton.

## Square And Compass Clubs

Square and Compass Clubs exist in more than one area of this Jurisdiction. One that has enjoyed a good deal of success meets in Camrose at 8:00 a.m. on the first Thursday of the month. In 1993, thanks to the imagination of RW Bro. Darrell Peterson, the Camrose Square and Compass Breakfast Club was inaugurated. Since that time, attendance has steadily grown and it is not unusual to see close to 30 happy members of our Masonic family present. It has served to draw our membership closer together and there is no doubt that our ladies, as well as the men, enjoy the opportunity of meeting socially.

We in Camrose strongly recommend that this idea be pursued in other Lodges, as the fraternal benefits are obvious. Oh yes, we would warmly welcome anyone with Masonic affiliation to join our 'happy gang' at the Norsemen Inn should you be sojourning in the Camrose area on the first Thursday of the month.

Submitted by MW Bro. Stan Harbin, PGM

## Recognition

### 50 Year Jewel Presented

The Brethren of Patricia Lodge, Edmonton, recently honoured a senior member, when Bro. Dave Taylor was presented with his 50 Year Jewel, lapel pin, certificate and the congratulations of the Grand Master, MW Bro. Ray Burton.

Brother Taylor joined St. Andrews Lodge No. 174, GRS in 1943. He affiliated with Patricia Lodge in 1957 and has been a faithful and dedicated member ever since. Although he chose not to progress through the chairs, he has made many contributions to the Lodge and to the Craft in general. He was made an Honorary Life Member in 1988 as a token of esteem by his Brethren.



(l-r) Bro. Dick Damery (Bro. Taylor's son-in-law); Bro. John Fraser, WM; and RW Bros. Clarence Comrie and Art Jones.

### Fifty Year Past Master's Jewel



RW Bro. L. (Larry) E. Larcombe received this very special recognition at the December meeting of Charity Lodge, Lethbridge. The picture shows him being presented with the Jewel by Bro. Lorne Vaughan, WM (left).

RW Bro. Larcombe joined Hope Lodge, Manville, Alberta in December of 1935. He became Master in 1942 and then later served for a second term as Master. In 1974 he affiliated with Charity Lodge, Lethbridge and in 1983 became DDGM of the then District 7. He is still a member of his Mother Lodge, even though it is now amalgamated with Vermilion Lodge.

Congratulations to an active Mason for a long and distinguished Masonic career.

Submitted by MW Bro. A.O. Aspeslet.

## Will It Be Too Late For You

Being raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, in June, 1994, by the Northern Alberta Veterans' Degree Team at Fort Edmonton Park is a great experience for any Mason. Bro. Tom Anstruther was that Mason and he was made a member of Avon Glen. As part of his speech of thanks, Brother Anstruther told the following story;

"There is one person whom I must particularly thank — my father, Dan. He joined the Masonic Lodge in Kelowna in 1977. I was 21 years old at the time and never heard of the Masons. A year later we moved to Calgary and, within a short time, Dad was raised to a Master Mason. I still knew nothing of the Masons. A couple of years later, Dad joined the Shrine. This time I saw something because it is hard to hide a fez and a marching patrol uniform! But I still knew nothing of the Shrine or the Masons.

"My father died in 1993 and I still knew nothing about the Masons, but the next morning my step-mother came downstairs to me with a watch and a Masonic ring. She told me that the ring had belonged to both my grandfather and my dad and now it was mine. I still knew nothing about the Masons.

"The funeral was a few days later and the Shrine Marching Patrol Honour Guard was there. Standing at the top of the church aisle, I found I was looking down to where my father's casket lay between two rows of both familiar and unfamiliar faces. These were the Honour Guard formed in two ranks to pay their respect — it was then, when I knew what Masonry was about. It was about friendship, comradeship, fellowship and loyalty. The common bond of these things joined all these men and, at that moment, I knew I wanted to be part of it.

"So the one person I want to thank most is not here to hear me say, 'Thank you Dad — thank you for giving me the opportunity.'"

After the Festive Board was over, Bro. Anstruther said that one of the Brethren came up to him and told him that he had a son and, after hearing that story, thinks he should talk to him about Masonry. He said it was hard to do, because he came from the "old school" where nothing was said.

Brother Anstruther walked away smiling because one part of his comments, that he had been unable to make because of his emotions, had already borne fruit. He had written down in his notes, "It's too late for my father and me to share this night together but maybe, just maybe, it won't be too late for YOU."

Do yourself, your loved ones and Masonry a favour — ensure your Will is current.

## 60 Years Married

Congratulations go to our well-loved Calgary Brother, a member of Renfrew Lodge, RW Bro. John Sebastian Bach, and his wife Georgina, on their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, which will occur on April 30, 1995.

What we do belongs to what we are; and what we are is what becomes of us.

Henry Van Dyke