



MWBro Norman Randall Thomas

MWBro Norman Thomas, who was installed Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta on June 14, 2003, was born in Caerphilly, Wales, on December 22, 1932. Following grammar school education he served as a national serviceman in the Royal Army Dental Corps during the Korean War, 1950 to 1952. On release from the forces, after a brief period at the University of Wales, Norman entered the Faculty of Medicine at Bristol University, graduating as a dental surgeon with honours and the gold medal. He was awarded a Nuffield Fellowship (Oxford) and completed an honours degree in medical science. He subsequently pursued residency programs at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the University of Bristol and the Medical College of Virginia in the United States of America, graduating as Doctor of Philosophy and with specialist diplomas in Pathology and Oral Medicine, and Fellowship of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada in Science.

In 1968 Norman Thomas immigrated to Canada to assume a research and teaching appointment in Physiology at the Faculty of Medicine and Oral Sciences of the University of Alberta where he is now Professor Emeritus. He has been appointed Chancellor of an international college in Orthopedics of the Head and Neck out of Washington State, and is on the faculty of the Institute of Advanced Science in Las Vegas where he continues as an active teacher and researcher.

Norman is married to Jean for 49 years and they have four sons, Martyn and Richard, dental surgeons, Christopher, a professional actor, and Timothy, an ordained minister with the United Church of Canada, and an only daughter, Stephanie, a barrister and solicitor. All four sons are Freemasons.



Grand Master 2003–2004

Jean and Norman have eight grandchildren. The eldest grandson is a Past DeMolay and will be entering dental school in the fall. The eldest granddaughter is a gold medallist with Team Canada in Women's Canoeing. The remaining grandchildren are continuing

with their education.

Norman Thomas' Masonic journey began in 1972 when he was initiated, passed and raised in Griesbach Lodge No. 191, later to serve as Worshipful Master in 1981. He was elected DDGM of Athabasca District for 1996–1997 and Junior Grand Warden in 2000, leading to his present high office. He has served with many concordant bodies, namely: the Scottish Rite, Royal Arch, currently being Grand Chaplain of the Grand Chapter RAM of Alberta; the Knights Templar; Cryptic Rite; Knights of York; Knights of Constantine; the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine; the Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia, serving on High Council in the UK; and the Allied Masonic Order. He is a corresponding member of Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Research of England and an affiliated member of both Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980, GRA and Internet Lodge of Research, GRA. In May of this year he has been received into the Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem, with the grade of Officer (OLJ). In his spare time Norman conducts the Annual Welsh Singing Festival in Edmonton and Ponoka.

A Brother of many talents at the helm of our Grand Lodge.

To Lead Is To Do The Right Thing

Address by MWBro Norman Thomas, Grand Master

It is an accepted truism that those who would lead should do the right thing, whereas those who would manage should do things right. In my election to the honourable office of Grand Master of our Jurisdiction, you have invited me to do both and I thank you for the great trust you have reposed in me.

Freemasonry is touted as the example *par excellence* of democracy serv-

ing as a model for the parliamentary process. Sir Winston Churchill, while conceding that democracy is a slow process, nevertheless pronounced it as the world's most effective form of government, so long as the people are informed. And so it is that the office of Grand Master is invested with certain executive responsibilities when the

See **The Right Thing**, page 2.

Editorial

The Letter that wasn't

One would presume that leading newspapers owe their readers not only the most recent news but they should also be truly educational, and that means factual (at least that is the policy of this humble paper, *The Alberta Freemason*). Now it happened on June 22, 2003, that *The Edmonton*

Journal (and surely other papers of the Canwest group) carried an article containing incorrect, or ill informed, statements which demanded a response, wherefore this editor, in consultation with the Grand Master, formulated a letter to the editor which — you guessed it — did not appear in print. Our readers, however, are entitled to the text of the original article as well as the attempt to set the record straight. Here they are, in full:

Thinning of Freemasons spurs youth recruitment

May create one-day initiation to replace three-month ordeal

Cassandra Szklarski, *The Canadian Press*, Toronto

As far as frat groups go, they're not exactly what anyone would describe as "with it." In fact, they can't even be called refreshingly retro, since their ancient rituals date back to the Industrial Revolution. The Freemasons are old and their ancient traditions are threatening to keep them that way, fear leaders [*who??? Ed*] of the secret society who say it's time to lift the veil on closely guarded rituals and start luring young recruits.

"The World War II veterans that swelled the ranks of Freemasons are starting to die off," bemoans Stephen Dafoe, an Alberta Mason who writes books and edits an Internet newsletter about the men's group. "There are some lodges back east that I frequently vis-

ited that were really having a hard time and they were so starved for members you were seeing one or two, or even three, lodges go in together and do what they call an amalgamation."

Modern Masons

With the average age of Canadian Masons hovering in the mid-60s, the danger of the secret society dying off has grand masters doing what was previously unthinkable — placing recruitment ads in newspapers and forming public relations divisions for tactics on how to sell Masons to a new generation. Ideas for quick fixes include one-day classes in which the ancient three-month process of initiation is compressed into a convenient drive-through

format for today's busy young man.

The idea is a controversial one, with many Masons fearing the push to increase membership will dilute principles of brotherly love, relief and truth. "I'm dead against it," says Dafoe, 41, who joined a Belleville, Ont. Lodge 12 years ago. "Each degree has a certain amount of memory work that the candidate has to remember. Then he has to prove that he remembers that stuff before he takes the next degree. When you slam them through all in one day... I don't think that it makes long-term committed members."

Misplaced mystique

What it is exactly that recruits are made to study is still closely guarded. However, the original "secrets of Masonry" are likely nothing more than building trade secrets and passwords

The Right Thing, from page 1.

Grand Communication is not in session. The function of granting dispensations for emergent situations is rooted in this expediency, and not for the mere operation of a benign dictatorship, as some would have us believe. The guidelines that direct the Grand Master are clearly enunciated in our Charges, Landmarks and Ancient Usages: "So must your obedience be proved by... ready acquiescence in all votes and resolutions duly passed by the Brethren." I respectfully advise you that as a member of every Lodge in our Jurisdiction I will respect the emergent petition so long as it has been properly moved, seconded and passed by my

Brethren and in so far as it is in keeping with the law.

I was thus very careful in my inaugural address at the Grand Communication to lay out in very general terms our aspirations for the ensuing Masonic year. For those who missed our greatest celebration of the Masonic year, you should read about it on our Grand Lodge web site. Ultimately, it is to the VSL that a Freemason is exhorted to turn when our laws, rules and regulations require foundation for their veracity. There we learn that the **Word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path** (Ps. 119, v. 105), and in this one is exhorted to **Study to show yourself approved, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the**

truth (2 Tim. 2,15). That approval comes from God who is within each and everyone of us. The practice of Freemasonry should, by the urging of that Word, place its light upon a stand for all to see.

I summarize with a quotation from the Charge to the Canadian Rite second degree: **Freemasonry... is of a divine and moral nature, enriched with the most useful knowledge, so that while it proves the wonderful properties of nature, it demonstrates the more important truths of morality.** Nature is indeed a mystery comprising astonishing secrets open to each of us by way of a key, namely, to study and research.

God bless us all in our endeavours.

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that took the place of union dues cards when the fraternity formed in 1717 England. Today, secrecy largely revolves around acts of philanthropy, says Karim-Aly Kassam, a University of Calgary professor in communications and culture who is quick to dispute per-

And the response:

The Masons are still very much “with it”!

Cassandra Szklarski's (*The Canadian Press*, Toronto) article “Thinning of Freemasons spurs youth recruitment” (*The Edmonton Journal*, June 22, 2003) warrants some clarification and pointing out that not all that was said applies to the Alberta scene or indeed anywhere else.

Firstly, the term “secret society,” applied to Freemasonry, is a misnomer at best as it is understood that secret societies keep their aims and objectives as well as their membership lists hidden from public view, and some such groups are suspected of pursuing evil objectives. Quite the opposite applies to this honourable fraternity. So what is secret about the Masons? Passwords and handshakes? In reality, what the Masons keep “private” is no different from what goes on in the laboratories of firms such as Coca Cola or Kentucky Fried Chicken, or in the boardrooms of big industry, not to mention the average couple's bedroom. Some things, in society at large, just are not being divulged to those who are not concerned. So, yes, rituals are being kept “secret” even from those seeking membership — and why? Think of reading a great novel for the first time — what would starting at the last pages of the book do to the reader? It would spoil the surprise ending. So it is with the communication of the degrees through which the candidate passes, ensuring his enjoyment of the uplifting lessons taught to further a person's moral and ethical self-improvement, to make a good man better — not necessarily better than certain others, but better than he was before, a better husband, a better father, a better citizen, a better parishioner.

Secondly, the Freemasons' ancient rituals do not date back to the Industrial Revolution, as stated, but rather to the Age of Enlightenment, and that makes a big difference. To say that an organization, in order to survive and remain relevant in the 21st century, should scuttle traditions, read: immutable values, is ludicrous. If this were so, ignore Plato and Socrates and all

sistent rumours the group has more to do with religious cults, world domination and sacrificial goats. “The mystique of [Masonry being] something secretive has been made a little bit too much of — especially in our liberal democratic society, it's not possible,” says Kassam.

the other great philosophers through the ages, even the founders of our great monotheistic religions, Jesus included, or the works of Shakespeare for that matter, simply because they're all that old! Quite the contrary, more and more young men are nowadays seeking lasting values and are knocking at the door of the lodge. Right here, in Edmonton, more men in their twenties, thirties and forties do so.

Thirdly and lastly, there was mention of “one-day classes,” meaning that candidates for Freemasonry are pushed through what should take a reasonably long time, all in one day, as a cure-all for alleged membership woes. What was not explained is that this has indeed happened in but few of the 51 States (and District of Columbia) Grand Lodges south of the border, but certainly not in Alberta. As in the trades an indentured apprentice cannot expect to become a journeyman in such a short time, neither can a worker with the mind (rather than with the hands) absorb the wealth of beautiful experiences

Still, membership has declined steadily across North America, with the most recent statistics revealing 3,148 fewer Canadian Masons in 2001 than the previous year. In 2001, there were 111,898 Canadian Masons, nearly half of them from Ontario.

in a day, nor should he want to. In continental European Masonic Lodges it is customary to pass through the degrees at one-year intervals with the result that the new members become knowledgeable, Masonically well-educated Brethren. Today's “busy young man” wouldn't want this “drive-through format” which would rob him of very important insights. Also, placing recruitment ads in newspapers by the Grand Master, as stated, (who has seen any in Alberta?) would be unthinkable, because Masons do not recruit, do not solicit membership; the interested man has to come of his own accord, not unlike the legendary Perceval (or Parsifal) who had to ask — the Holy Grail was not offered to him. Finally, what does it matter if numbers decline a bit? The same thing happens to a number of service clubs and even churches — what matters regarding members is not quantity but quality, and in that department Freemasonry is doing just fine!

Robert Juthner, Edmonton
Editor, *The Alberta Freemason*
(monthly)
www.freemasons.ab.ca

A Rare Event in Fort McMurray

This year, Millennium Lodge No. 2000 had the pleasure of initiating, passing and raising Wes Johnson (age 49) and his son Jim Johnson (age 24) together. In fact, they petitioned together and were balloted upon together.

The picture was taken on May 22, 2003, the night when they were made Master Masons. Father and son becoming “Brothers” together is certainly a rare occasion.

Brian Shimmons, PDDGM



Al Shamal October Dinner Meeting

Brethren, Companions, Nobles and Friends:

We would like to invite Masons, prospective Masons, etc., to our monthly dinner meeting on Monday the 6th of October 2003, at the Al Shamal Temple on 142nd Street north of 137th Avenue.

In order that the caterer may know how many will be in attendance, please

call the Shrine office at (780) 482-6065, and give them your name and phone number.

Al Shamal Membership Committee

Grand Master's Itinerary
September 16th to October 1st — Grand
Master's United Kingdom Tour

The Last Pearl

Jerome Jacobson, the last surviving member of the original nine young men who formed the club which became DeMolay, recently passed away at the age of 100. Jacobson was the youngest of the original nine, having turned seventeen just days before his initiation into DeMolay.

When DeMolay first began (founder) Land tried to find an emblem that would represent the organization. While in art school, Land had drawn a Heraldic Shield. Put away for years, shortly after the founding of DeMolay Land suggested that it be used as the DeMolay emblem. On the shield there were ten jewels. Land wanted the emblem to have a greater meaning than just ornamental.

"I believe they should signify the first of our boys, Louie Lower and the



other eight who came with him on that first night that now seems so long ago," Land said. "The tenth jewel will stand for me as the Founder of the group. I

will always be proud of becoming in this way a part of the symbolic organization of DeMolay. In the years to come, each of us will enter into the adventure beyond this life. Then the color of each jewel, in turn, can change from white to red. Years from now, there will be ten rubies to give testimonial that in the beginning, there were ten who shared a dream together."

Nine pearls have changed to rubies. Now the final pearl, representing Jerome Jacobson, becomes a ruby as well.

Much time has passed since Frank Land and nine boys met together and from their informal meeting, gave DeMolay to generations of young men. Each young man had a role in the fabric of DeMolay, making it the organization it is today with millions of Senior DeMolays worldwide.

(DeMolay press release)

The "Right" Rite

By RWBro B.A. "Sandy" Sandford
Mizpah Lodge No. 35

I have recently returned to practicing the Canadian Rite, to which I belonged for many years during my residence in Ontario. It seems a shame that so often I have heard Masons in Alberta expounding on the inadequacies of the other rite while glorifying the correctness of the "right" rite.

I was first initiated in the York Rite in Goose Bay, Labrador and, after transfer to RCAF Trenton, passed and raised in the Canadian Rite at Franck Lodge No. 127, GRC, of Frankford, Ontario. As a consequence it has been my good fortune to experience the richness of both the Canadian and York Rites.

Upon my arrival in Alberta, I was advised by the District Deputy, a member of the Canadian Rite, that if I wanted to help out a Lodge that was experiencing difficulties, it would behoove me to affiliate with Quarry Lodge No. 70, practicing the York Rite. Having gone through the chairs in Ontario, up to and including Senior Deacon, I was quite happy to continue my progress in the York Rite, beginning in the Junior Deacon position. Over the following years I have been honoured to serve as Worshipful Master of my Lodge and subsequently District Deputy Grand Master for District No. 2 which later became Palliser District under the Grand Lodge's revised method of district des-

ignation. Unfortunately, Quarry Lodge eventually succumbed to seemingly insurmountable financial woes and was forced to affiliate with another Lodge. Having fulfilled my self-imposed obligation to Quarry, I then affiliated with Mizpah Lodge No. 35, practicing the Canadian Rite.

My experiences, since affiliation, have been Masonically fulfilling for me. I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting other Lodges with the present DDGM. Whether they are Canadian or York Rite does not matter as I feel comfortable and at home in either one. My mobility and hearing problems since my stroke don't seem to detract from my Lodge awareness and understanding. Admittedly, I miss minor details of the Lodge business but I soon become lost in the feeling of brotherhood and welcome with some friends that I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting.

It has been almost a tradition in Mizpah for the Past Masters to confer the Master Mason degree at least once annually. This past year I was approached to fill the Chaplain's chair, complete with the prayer of reception and the oration from Ecclesiastes; thankfully I was able to deliver the latter dramatically and with what I believe was sepulchral intonation. The Senior Warden was impressed because he asked me if I would consider being his Chaplain. (We install and invest our officers in June.) I gratefully accepted and am fortunate to have the opportu-

nity to assist my Lodge.

I reiterate, my familiarity with both rites has afforded me the chance to experience the richness of each, and has given me the opportunity to put back to Masonry a small part of that which I have received in this, my seventieth year, for I have found that any Masonic Rite is the "right" rite, if your life is guided by Masonic principles, ethics and morality.

Letter

Where are the young?

I have just (April 24, 2003) perused *The Alberta Freemason (May 2003)* and noticed the ages of the Brethren who are running for the various boards and am astounded to see that most of the Brethren are well over 70 years of age. Of the eleven who are running for the Board of General Purposes, they range in age — for eight of them — from early seventies to early eighties, with only three under the age of 65. Junior Grand Warden: only one under the age of 70. Bursary: one is over 70 and two under 60. Benevolence is the same and Jurisprudence as well. This of course begs the question, "Why are not the younger Masons' names being put forward?"

One has to view our Boards with some skepticism and ask, "Are we getting members who have a clear and definite infusion of new ideas that will lift our Fraternity back to the numbers
See **Where?**, page 6.

Topic Challenged Workshop

Last April's 38th Masonic Spring Workshop held at the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis, Alberta, proved to be a challenging weekend for the 203 Brethren registered. The Theme was "Truth: **The** Core of the Craft" — a difficult topic to cover adequately.

The Workshop ended with a great deal of praise and admiration for the guest speaker, WBro Victor Popow from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Bro Popow is widely read, well travelled and has garnered a reputation in Masonic Circles as an excellent speaker. Needless to say, Bro Popow had been asked to speak on a very difficult topic and his researches found that this was not going to be an easy presentation to make to the Alberta Brethren.

Although many on the first evening found Bro Popow's presentation was above their level of comprehension, by Sunday their thoughts and opinions had changed drastically. It was interesting to note, as a result, that some were very disappointed with the first night, but they all admitted later that on the same evening they returned to the privacy of their rooms where their discussions focused around the very same deep topic of truth. Bro Popow also had ten circular breakout sessions within his session on Saturday. Each circle was given a topic to discuss associated with truth and each group made a 3 to 5 minute presentation following their discussion. The Brethren thoroughly enjoyed this interaction and look forward to similar sessions at future Masonic Spring Workshops.

RWBro Tren Cole, in setting up the various sessions, introduced to the workshop non-Masonic resources that



addressed the Theme from their life experiences, occupation and culture. The Brethren were extremely impressed with the aboriginal presenter, Elmer Ghostkeeper, who discussed the native culture and its striking similarities to Freemasonry. Robert Lang, the magician, applied truth to his illusions. Mike Ryan has had many life experiences in the streets with drugs and crime and is now a leading advocate of Behaviour & Restorative Justice. Ryan was able to share first hand experiences of life on the streets and the inner feelings of street people. Gregg McMartin is a former RCMP polygraph operator who now uses his skills in the private sector. He related what indicators are visible when a person is lying. He noted one indicator is insufficient evidence to conclude that one is lying, but that it is necessary to have a cluster of indicators.

The Brethren left Kananaskis on the Sunday morning completely satisfied with the content of the workshop. My thought on the workshop is "Our gain and their loss". Those that missed the workshop missed a great weekend experience.

RWBro David Roth is Chairman for the 2004 Masonic Spring Workshop and his chosen theme is "Tolerance: Towards a Pluralistic Society" with Keynote speaker Bro Karim-Aly Kassam — a professor who is director of the Theme School in Northern Planning and Development Studies at the University of Calgary and a member of Commercial 81. How can Masonry's core value of Tolerance become the basis of a Pluralistic Civil Society? You can get your answer by attending next year's Masonic Spring Workshop, April 30 to May 2, 2004. Bring a friend.

Meanwhile, check out the new Workshop website at www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca.

Jerry W. Kopp [36/53/1980]
2003 General Chairman
Masonic Spring Workshop

Accolades for Meridian Lodge No. 129

Meridian Lodge stepped in to perform the last Masonic act of Brotherly Love for a Brother from a sister jurisdiction, WBro Ian MacKenzie, of Mackenzie Lodge No. 186, GRBC&Y. The following letter was sent to our Lodge (Ed):

On behalf of our Worshipful Master, WBro Mark Valenta, and the Brethren of Mackenzie Lodge No. 186, heartfelt thanks to the Worshipful Master and Brethren of Meridian Lodge No. 129, who performed the Masonic service for our late Brother, WBro Ian MacKenzie. Also special thanks to RWBro Stan Bembridge, who initially contacted me and got the process started.

It is at times like this that brotherly love does shine through, especially on such short notice. WBro MacKenzie's wife found the service overwhelming and was impressed with the number of Brethren who attended, and sends her heartfelt appreciation.

Also, many thanks on behalf of VWBro Don MacKenzie, Ian's father, who contacted me to see if we could arrange a service to see his son and Brother be given a proper Masonic farewell. Please convey this message of thanks to all the Brethren who made this passing a little easier for the MacKenzie family. May God be with you all.

VWBro Ron Warren, Secretary

On behalf of the Grand Lodge, RWBro Jerry Kopp, Grand Secretary, sent letters of commendation to WBro Stevens of Meridian Lodge and RWBro Bembridge — Ed.

Hands Across The Border — 2003

Edmonton Freemasons' Hall, 10318 – 100 Avenue NW
Saturday, November 15, 2003 — 2:00 PM

Theme: "**Freemasonry — the elusive description of ourselves**"

Program: Up to five 12-minute papers to be presented and discussed.

Audience participation and judging afterwards.

Intermission entertainment by Job's Daughters and DeMolay

Our two Alberta and two Saskatchewan Districts invite you to join us.

All Masons, ladies and non-Masonic friends invited
Limited seating.

Advance ticket sales:

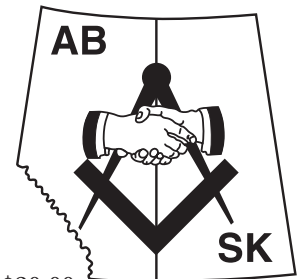
Afternoon program: \$5.00

Banquet and entertainment: \$20.00

For ticket reservations phone: 1-780-489-6730

1-780-922-5487

Host Lodge: Norwood Lodge No. 90, AF&AM, GRA



Snippets from the GL Communication

Every Brother will have access to every detail of what transpired at the Grand Lodge Communication in Red Deer, June 13th and 14th, once the Worshipful Master of his Lodge will have received the Proceedings. Meanwhile, here are but a few highlights.

While heretofore eight Past Masters were elected at Grand Lodge each year to serve on the Board of General Purposes for a 2-year term, totaling 16 elected members, it was resolved that henceforth (i.e., beginning in 2004/2005) one Master Mason in good standing in a Lodge within a District of not less than five consecutive years, and resident in the jurisdiction is eligible for nomination to the BGP, which election will take place at the District meeting, thus assuring representation of each district on the Board. Elected members shall serve a term of three years, with a

maximum of three consecutive terms. But: an innovative “But” — any such member who absents himself from two consecutive regular meetings of the Board... shall be deemed to be no longer a member of the Board. (There was no decision made on a truant’s replacement procedure.)

The Committee structure of Grand Lodge had been studied by a special task force, whose recommendations, save one, were endorsed by the Grand Lodge in session. This meant that necessary responsibilities and duties of certain committees were redefined, overlaps eliminated and gaps closed in committee responsibilities, redundant committees identified and the requirement for new committees established. The new standing committees are the Masonic Medal of Merit Committee and the Publications and Forms Committee (formerly Grand Master’s special committees). We can expect an extensive revision of many articles in the Constitution and Regulations, rendering previous printings obsolete. The one change which proposed to demote the

Board of Benevolence (and its President) to Committee on Benevolence (and its Chairman) was, true to tradition, defeated.

With the centenary of Grand Lodge in 2005 fast approaching, and following the lead of other Canadian and foreign jurisdictions, the manufacture of a Grand Lodge Standard (whose design already exists) was approved and the office of Grand Standard Bearer was created, and the first Brother appointed to that office was invested.

The Grand Master-elect, now MWBro Norman Randall Thomas, was duly installed in the Grand East; RWBro Rodney Ponech was invested as Deputy Grand Master and declared Grand Master-elect; RWBro Rex Dawson was elected and invested as Senior Grand Warden; and RWBro Malcolm Berry was elected and invested as Junior Grand Warden. (The fifteen District Deputy Grand Masters will be introduced to our readers in the November, December and January issues of this publication, and the full list of Grand Lodge officers will appear in the Proceedings.)

Grand Lodge was closed in ample form, peace and harmony prevailing.

“The Lonely Tyler”

By Reginald Hodgson Smith,
the VW Grand Tyler 2003-2004
Evergreen Lodge No. 166

A knock is heard
When the Lodge is squared,
Then gavel clicks on block,
The Lodge is raised
As God be praised,
Then comes the final knock.

A man with sword
May sit alone
From spring well into fall.
Stars may shine
Or a moon be bright
As the Tyler guards us all.

He keeps off cowans,
Prepares the new,
Just one of the jobs
He has to do.
To sit aside and answer knocks
Regardless of the time on clocks.

It’s in the winter,
With snow around,
That the lonely Tyler
In the Lodge is found,
Seeing candidates are properly
dressed
Before each one is put to rest

Thus we, as Masons,
Go from dark to light,
As that lonely Tyler
Guards at night...

Lethbridge Celebrated

March 24th, 2003, was another evening in North Star Lodge No. 4, which will earn its place in the Lodge’s history. On this evening three generations of Patching sat in Lodge together. Bro Jesse Patching, the youngest, was raised to the degree of a Master Mason, assisted by his father, WBro Doug Patching. This took place after his grandfather, VWBro Del Patching examined him as a Fellowcraft. This was the second time the three were together in North Star Lodge, the first having been on Jesse’s initiation, and with the grace of God, we will have them together in Lodge many more times.

Pictured are, L-R, standing: Bro Jesse Patching, WBro Doug Turigan, WM,



WBro Doug Patching; seated: VWBro Del Patching

Ron Astell, Sec/Treas

Where?, from page 4.

we once enjoyed, or are we faced with what might be called the geriatric set?” We now have a resolution stating we elect a Mason from each District to represent us on the BGP: this is a step in the right direction, but we should go farther and elect a Mason from the District for the other committees; this way we will bring forward new people

with new and creative ideas. No one should be allowed to run for any Board if he is over the age of 65 years, and of course the same should apply to those who run for Junior Grand Warden.

Now, if we can get the BGP down to a workable 16 or 17, then I believe many things can be accomplished and the Fraternity can move forward at an accelerated speed.

RWBro Clyde Elford, Glenbow 184