

THE ALBERTA FreeMason



Editor: MWBro
Robert E. Juthner

Vol. 69, No. 3

Bro Capt Wilfrid Reid (Wop) May OBE DFC



Bro Reginald Smith (166 & 96), the present Grand Tyler, suggested this tribute to **Wop May**, Canadian pioneer aviator, as a long overdue acknowledgment of one who — so Smith feels — ranks alongside aviation and space pioneers, all Freemasons, such as Brothers Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, Edwin Aldrin, Virgil “Gus” Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chafee, as well as others among our Canadian bush pilots, such as WBro Tommy Fox, Master of Commercial Lodge No. 81 in 1962.

So, how did Wop May become such a celebrated bush pilot? The following is an account taken from <http://www.ualberta.ca/EDMONTON/CONTRIB/airmuseum/aammay.html>:

“By mid-summer of 1919 a number of restless young airmen, discharged from the services at the close of World War I, were starting to look around for employment and were beginning to realize that there was none... For some of these pilots this was not an insurmountable problem, they would just create themselves an opportunity... in aviation.

“One of these pioneers was Captain Wop May, an Edmonton resident who had gained fame when, on his first combat flight, he was pursued and shot at by the ‘Red Baron’. The fates must have

smiled on the Canadian because Richthofen was killed during this chase and May survived to continue on to rise to the rank of Captain, shoot down thirteen enemy aircraft, and be given the Distinguished Flying Cross. Now he was back in Edmonton and he had no doubts as to what his new career path was going to be!

“...This was the very dawn of the age of aviation and ‘barnstorming’ and it was also the golden age of country fairs and exhibitions... local exhibitions were the entertainment of the day for the majority of cities and towns in North America. And, as happens in the entertainment business today, the managers of this medium vied with each other for new and exciting promotions that would draw people to THEIR show and thus increase profits... A proposal was delivered... by one Gale Brooks of Minneapolis, proposing that he be allowed to bring in Curtiss Jenny aircraft from the United States to be used in ‘barnstorming features’ at Western Canadian fairs and exhibitions. After a little negotiating this was

deemed acceptable, but only if Captain May (of Edmonton) and Captain McCall (of Calgary) were hired as pilots. After all, we had to keep some Canadian content, eh!

“...Then came the end of the war and its attendant disposal of surplus military machinery. Again fate interceded in May’s life, this time in the form of a Montreal businessman, James Caruthers, who had made a fortune promoting real estate in Edmonton’s west end. In late 1918 he purchased ‘The Edmonton’ [a former RAF aircraft] and had her shipped to Alberta’s capital as a gift of appreciation, with his compliments...

“Not content with the ‘barnstorming’ aspect alone and seeing that luscious Jenny just sitting there, pining away, The May Airplanes Company Ltd. put together a business proposal [which] was ratified by city council on May 12, 1919 and enabled May Airplanes to take over the Jenny... A \$25.00 per month rental fee out of operating prof-

See **Bro Wop May**, page 3.



Wop May in front of his second aircraft, a Standard J-1 (a Curtiss JN-4 (Jenny) built by Standard Aircraft Company) owned by Harry Adair of Lake Saskatoon in NW Alberta. On this aircraft he had his name — WOP — painted on the top wing so people would know who was flying upside down!

Editorial Lodge Notices

Actually, such do not exist as, according to the *Regulations, R3.6*, they are called “**Summonses**”, so “Notice” is just a colloquialism that seems hard to eradicate. No matter what they are called, these monthly notifications of all members of a Lodge to assemble for the next stated meeting are governed by but few basic stipulations in the above mentioned Regulations. It follows that among the 135 Lodges in the jurisdiction there exists a great and often contrasting variety among these summonses as to their content and, hence, the interest created among the members to peruse them (or even to open the envelope). Some Masters take great pride in including meaningful messages, some use quotations or interesting and educational items to be appreciated by the reader. Some, like Lake Saskatoon Lodge, offer profusely colour-illustrated ones that the recipi-

ent would be tempted to preserve for posterity. At the other end of the scale there is the “Bare bones” variety, lacking that special touch that requires Masonic enthusiasm to turn a call to a meeting into a welcome piece of literature.

In this issue, please read under “Alberta Miscellany” turning to “Mountain View Lodge No. 16” for what they have to say about a notice of motion, on the District level, to give an award for the best prepared notice (ugh, summonses). Now there’s a thought! Many Brethren have heard admonishments, over the years, to improve the content of the summonses, but there are no statistics available on how effective these were. Let us have a look to see what is done about this elsewhere. In the latest issue of *Illinois Freemasonry*, Fall/Winter 2003, Vol. 9, No. 4, we read:

Top lodge newsletter cited for excellence, creativity.

A total of 44 Illinois lodges were recognized for their excellence in communications with members at

the Grand Lodge annual meeting as winners in the Grand Lodge of Illinois/Illinois Freemasonry competition for the 2003 Newsletter of the Year... Members of the Grand Lodge Newsletter Committee were judges for this annual competition and they commented about the overall excellence and quality of the entries submitted... One judge reported, ‘The difference between the first place winners and the runners-up was very, very close’.

So they call it “newsletter” — still means the same, but there appears to be a concerted effort spearheaded by the Grand Lodge in conjunction with their Masonic magazine to give an incentive to the Lodges to turn something otherwise rather drab into a stimulating and effective piece of communication. Should we emulate their example and reward the best with framed certificates, as they do, or is it enough to expect that, eventually, all Lodges will come around and show “excellence and creativity”?

Freemasons’ Hall, Calgary — Grand Opening



After seven months of renovations — the major construction being the installation of an elevator — we were finally ready to share our new look with everyone. On Sunday, January 18th, 2004, over 100 people (including several from Edmonton) shared in the Grand Opening of Freemasons’ Hall in Calgary. MWBro Norman Thomas, Grand Master, and WBro Don Brown, President of the Calgary Temple Board, shared in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

All who attended walked freely through the building, admiring the new committee rooms, banquet room, Grand Lodge Office and, of course, enjoyed a ride or two in the new elevator. After the ribbon cutting everyone was invited to the third floor banquet room to share in a wonderful spread of finger food (provided by Zenith Chapter, Mrs.

Lorel Strachan and Mrs. Allie Whitbread), wine and coffee. Photo albums of the construction, provided by Bro Richard Sellars, our head carpenter, added to the appreciation of the finished look. The feedback received was all very favourable.

Our thanks go out to all who made time to share this special event with us.

Grand Master’s Itinerary

March

- 1 Rockyford Lodge, Calgary
- 2 Fort McMurray Lodge
- 6 St. Mark’s Lodge, Calgary
- 9 Patricia Lodge, Edmonton
- 13 Ye Olde Craft Lodge, Edmonton
- 16 Mizpah Lodge, Medicine Hat
- 23 Edmonton Lodge
- 26 King George Lodge, Calgary

Provided to Freemasons of Alberta and the Northwest Territories west of the 4th Meridian who are members of
The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M.
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Deputy Grand Master	RWBro Rodney B. Ponech
Senior Grand Warden	RWBro Rex Dawson
Junior Grand Warden	RWBro Malcolm Berry
Grand Secretary	RWBro Jerry W. Kopp


**THE ALBERTA
Freemason**

Published each month except July and August by
The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M.

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& Grand Secretary

Annual subscription rate for non-members of the GLA is C\$10.00 plus mailing costs. Republication rights are granted to other Masonic Jurisdictions, but acknowledgement of the source is requested. The Editor reserves the right to accept, reject and re-write material submitted for publication. Deadline for copy is the 1st day of the month, two months prior to the month of issue.

Alberta Miscellany

Avon Glen Lodge No. 170

There is a phrase that states: "You only get out what you put in." Let me remind you of some of the words from your initiation: "In a society so widely extended as that of Freemasonry, whose branches are spread over the four divisions of the globe... as a warning to your own heart, should you at any future period meet a Brother in circumstances of distress who claims your assistance, you may recollect the peculiar moment in which you were received into Freemasonry..."

On your being passed: "to teach you to square your actions by the square of virtue and to keep within due bounds of all mankind."

On being raised: "to maintain and uphold the five points of fellowship, in act as well as in word."

Keep these few thoughts as you tread along the road of Masonry and they will keep you in good stead with all mankind. In your community it will show people what it is to be a Mason, to find that something was missing from their lives. They may want to discover it, and add that meaning to theirs.

From *The Earliest English Poems*
Translated by Michael Alexander

Mountain View Lodge No. 16

(Reporting about a District meeting)
There were those who were very critical of Lodge notices. Claimed they did not contain enough substance. Some were shabbily presented. I got the impression some were not worth reading. There was even a motion to give an award for the best-prepared notice (maybe we should get gold or silver stars). – Who will have the qualifications to judge same? Some months there is little to report; input from the members would be welcome. *The Alberta Freemason* does an excellent job of reporting news in and about the jurisdiction...

Unsigned (WM or Sec?)

Calgary Lodge No. 23

As John Locke, the British philosopher, once said "it is a short and brutish life" and there are many indications that life is becoming more difficult for ever increasing numbers of people in this world. This is a void that the Craft can and should fill. We in the Craft have a wonderful oasis within which we have the wonderful retreat of friendship and

virtue, and it is a pleasure to be in Lodge without other concerns. We, the Brethren in the Craft, are most fortunate!

Masonry has a future, not just within our Lodge walls, or focused on the past, but in looking to the future and deciding how we can fulfill an important role in society. While the past may provide direct or indirect instructions for the future, it is you and I who will move the Craft, with the Craft, and within the Craft, and it is the same for Calgary Lodge. I leave you with the question: what can Calgary Lodge do, outside our Lodge walls, that will enable us to be seen and the Craft appreciated? I believe this is how we can attract members and for all of us to be active Masons.

WBro Les Saggars, WM

Mount Lebanon Lodge No 54

I will mention our community project, the **Potato Patch**. The work is done and all of those who participated should stand proud. The project was too big to finish in one day, however, the following Saturday we finished it. Total results, and this is not official, is we dug and picked 38,000 pounds of potatoes for the Food Bank. Mind you, we could delete up to 2,500 pounds for dirt — who knows? The drivers of the Food Bank sent their thanks for all the cooperation they received from the many Masons, DeMolay, Job's Daughters and Ladies who devoted their time to this project.

Bro Bob Hauswirth, SW

Beacon Lodge No. 190

A Lodge is like a greenhouse. Some folks throw rocks and break glass. Others look in and admire the flowers. Still others, inside, water the plants, fertilize them, and keep it neither too hot nor too cold and generally provide a good environment for plant growth.

They get to smell the flowers. Want to be a horticulturist?

Unsigned

Alberta Lodge No. 3

...is looking for a replacement Secretary-Treasurer. **The job is easy:** all you have to do is to record the proceedings of the Lodge, collect all moneys and keep a proper account of all receipts and expenditures. Issue all summonses as required. Forward all required reports to Grand Lodge correctly and on time. Keep good and full records. Keep

the Worshipful Master and his elected Officers on their toes. Maintain a harmonious relationship with Grand Lodge, its Officers and Staff.

Time Requirement: (outside of Lodge meetings) about one (1) hour per week or five (5) hours per month, depending on your efficiency.

Requirements: a genuine interest in Masonry and your Lodge. Creativity! Have a good knowledge of the Book of Constitution and Regulations. Should be computer literate and able to touch type. Assistance from present Secretary-Treasurer will be available.

Benefits: Few! But you do get a good understanding of the workings of Grand Lodge.

Caution: don't expect too many accolades, but if any part of the train goes off the track, you can expect to hear from somebody!

RWBro E.H. Welton

Strathcona Lodge No. 77

How do we find more candidates? Let me begin the answer with a suggestion that may at first appear heretical: We do not need to find more candidates. We do not need to beat the bushes, twist arms, importune or solicit in any way whatsoever. When the candidate is ready, he will find us. This does not mean that we should be monumentally inscrutable until approached. Not only should we always be open to such an enquiry, but also there is no reason why we should not open the door to any considered discussion on the fraternity. This does not mean necessarily that we must be confined to advertising our affiliation by wearing Masonic jewellery or large belt buckles; virtually any subject of conversation from carpentry to Kipling, from bagpipes to billiards, will allow some reference to the fraternity. This is not to suggest that you embark on a career of proselytizing, but merely to indicate that you know something of the Craft and are prepared to discuss it. The certainties and stability of our institution appear like a harbour light in a sea of change; if this is the harbour the individual is seeking, he will turn towards it; if not his course lies elsewhere.

WBro Ian Gledhill, WM

Hinton Lodge No. 178

"Masonry — A Way of Life"

We sometimes need to be reminded that our Craft is more than just getting together once or twice a month, though

A Great Line-up!



This year's line-up of Sessions at the Spring Workshop is nothing short of outstanding. Karim-Aly Kassam will introduce a very interesting thesis about our Canadian, Albertan, and Masonic traditions of **Tolerance**, and follow that up Saturday morning to paint a picture of where we go from here and how Freemasonry could help us get there. He will also hold a separate session to discuss events and reactions to September 11, 2001.



Bro Karim-Aly Kassam

The other presentations on Saturday are likely to make your choice of Sessions very difficult. Elmer Ghostkeeper will talk about the social cost of racial intolerance and end with a Healing Circle.

You heard the one about the Priest, the Minister and the Rabbi? There will be a panel discussion on comparative religion to help us understand the common thread of tolerance that runs through the world's great religions, and how fragile that thing called civilization can be.

A comedian will show us how to keep our Festive Boards fun, and intolerance out-of-bounds. There will be a discussion group on Masonic intolerance, and how we should react.

For those involved with festive boards without a hired caterer, they are going to love the session on putting Spice in your Festive Board, and gain some insights into dealing with some common food intolerances.

These are just a few of the exceptional sessions this year that are guaranteed to challenge, stimulate, enlighten and entertain you. Top that off with glorious surroundings, great food, fabulous fellowship and you're talking about the Masonic Spring Workshop. Check us out at www.masonicspringworkshop.ab.ca and fill in your registration on-line (if you haven't done so already). That's the

Masonic Spring Workshop
30 April to 2 May 2004
Delta Lodge at Kananaskis

See you there!

getting together every month is one of the best parts and the best reminder that the Craft is so much more. Some Brothers seem to be embarrassed about belonging to the Craft, to the point that they will not display any evidence that they are Masons until they attend a Lodge meeting — if they attend a Lodge meeting!

We should not be in the shadows; we should be seen. The more people say "That good man is a Mason", the more good men may say "I too would like to be a Mason."

WBro George Stamp, WM

Grand Master's Centennial 2005 Tour "Sun, Sea & Sand"

Southern Caribbean & Panama Canal

with

Rod & Marilyn Ponech

MS Rotterdam

January 14th to 25th, 2005

Welcome Aboard

Dear Brethren:

Marilyn and I, and our family, extend to you, your wife, family and friends a warm invitation to join with us for the Grand Master's Centennial Cruise of the Southern Caribbean and the Panama Canal.

We depart the frozen winter of Alberta, January 4th, 2005 for 12 days of sun, sand, entertainment, and fellowship aboard the *MS Rotterdam*, which is the flagship of the Holland America Line.

Plans include an on board "Centennial Lodge at Sea" and hopefully a fraternal visit to a Caribbean Lodge on one of the sun drenched islands.

The 10-night cruise includes:

- Half Moon Cay
- Willemstad, Curacao
- Oranjestad, Aruba
- Puerto Limon, Costa Rica
- Scenic Cruising of the Panama Canal.

Please plan on joining us, and many others of our extended Masonic family, for what will be a most memorable experience as we Northerners are pampered in the life of luxury aboard one of the most lavish cruise ships in the world.

The Centennial year for the Grand Lodge of Alberta will be a busy and exciting one. One of the most enjoyable of the events planned will be the winter break, which all Albertans love.

Marilyn and I look forward to enjoying your company on this cruise celebrating the Centennial of the Grand Lodge of Alberta

Fraternally,

RWBro Rod Ponech
Deputy Grand Master, Grand Master-elect

New, deep discount rates available: Alberta and return (airfare, taxes, hotels, tours), starting from \$3,692 per person, lowest inside category. Book before April 2nd.

For further information on bookings and rates please contact:

Bro Murray Pay
Travel Consultant
M.P.V. Travel Services
266 Dalhurst Way NW
Calgary, AB T3A 1P5
(403) 286-8506 Fax (403) 247-0774

or follow the links from the Grand Lodge of Alberta website www.freemasons.ab.ca

“There’s a time for some things, and a time for all things; a time for great things, and a time for small things.” — Miguel de Cervantes



Why do men climb mountains? Of course, the answer is because they are there. Well, one of the members of Griesbach Lodge No. 191 took the same approach to the vastness of Canada. On 5 May 2003, **VWBro Sam Moore** departed Edmonton by train for Vancouver accompanied by his daughter, two bicycles and some camping equipment. On 6 May they disembarked in Vancouver, quickly organized themselves and started cycling towards the east. While an injury brought his daughter’s quest to an early end, Sam continued riding. On 14 May he reached the summit of the Rogers Pass. The next day, in a snowstorm, he crossed the Kicking Horse Pass. From there it was on through

Airdrie, Drumheller, Nakomis, SK, and Winnipeg, MB. Thunder Bay was reached on 6 June and another 10 days saw him crossing on the ferry to Tobermory. Canada Day was celebrated in Miramichie, NB. After a loop over to Prince Edward Island, by 9 July he had reached the ferry at North Sydney, NS. A 14-hour trip across to Newfoundland and on 10 July at 3:15 PM, he cycled up Signal Hill in St. John’s to end a 66-day, 7,100 km ride. Of the total time he took, Sam planned for 11 rest days so he knew that he had to average about 130 km per day. Of course, in BC, climbing the Rockies, the daily average was considerably lower than that; while in Ontario and Quebec 200 km days were commonplace.

The weather, for the most part was excellent. With the exception of the snow in the Rockies, there was only one day when his departure was delayed some three hours by heavy rain and only on two other days did he experience any rain showers at all. He had hoped to have good riding through the Prairies but a combination of bad roads and adverse winds, much of the time from the east or southeast at 35 km/h with gusts occasionally touching 60 km/h,

caused additional hours to be spent in the saddle to meet his planned rest stops. The hardest part of the trip, he comments, was Northern Ontario. Day after day of long steep hills, some like that at Montreal River were over 10 km long with a 7 per cent grade. The problem was not physical, but mentally being able to approach each new climb with enthusiasm and determination, and without becoming discouraged when another hill came into view. The best portion of the route he found was in the province of Quebec. Following “La Route Verte” and hugging the St. Lawrence River, much of the time he found he was able to maintain an average of 30 km/h. Consequently, by commencing cycling around 7:00 AM and stopping around 2:30 or 3:00 PM, he was able to avoid much of the heavy local traffic and because of the time of the year, vacation traffic had not become too problematic. What next? Well he has started to plan a ride from Mexico City to Edmonton, a distance of about 6,000 km.

WBro Mike Smith (191)

Nota Bene

Due to lack of use by the Alberta Masonic Fraternity, the Bank of Montreal “Masonic Affinity” MasterCard program has been discontinued by the Bank.

The Masonic Foundation of Alberta would like to express sincere thanks to the approximately 100 members of the Craft who contributed, cumulatively, about \$15,000 to the Foundation through the use of this card over the past ten years.

Brian E. Smith
Secretary-Treasurer

the fraternity in general, and we and the world at large will benefit.

On the other hand, his sojourn in the quarries of his Mother Lodge should have value. He should have the same opportunity as his Brethren to learn the valuable lessons the Craft has to teach. If he cannot memorize, has trouble with English or has another significant impediment to the traditional method of providing his proficiency, let us find an alternative learning process. But let us not suggest that memory work has no value.

David Roth, PDDGM, Commercial 81

Memory Work, from page 3.

that still relies on memory work to conduct its meetings. If any of you has read the introduction of your Collins Masonic Bible, you will be aware of the description of the value of work and “the philosophy of work which is the body and burden of the Work of the Three Degrees...” [p 15] It is not only physical labour, as it was in operative Lodges of old, but the speculative work of learning the stories, the rituals, the landmarks and the values which are important in every man’s life. Masons are different than other men in that we take upon ourselves a labour of learning that is different from what other men do, and that has value.

Memory work exercises the mind, allows us a slow and thorough method of learning, and leaves us with a new language, a new vocabulary that occasionally crops up in our daily lives and conversations. How many of you know someone who can quote Shakespeare or Bacon, or Wordsworth or Burns at just the right moment. A mind that has

that kind of vocabulary at its disposal is one worth listening to; it has value.

We have heard how the memorization of the proving up work can help us gain entrance to an unfamiliar Lodge, or identify a supposed Mason, or to identify oneself as a Mason under the right circumstances; this also has value.

All that being said, I suggest that there may be more here than meets the eye. Ari [Hoeksema] and I often have these conversations. He suggests that Master Masons be made in one-day classes. As a Past Potentate, his desire would be to get more interested men into the Shrine without having to go through the traditional Degree process.

On one thing we do agree. Our Lodges should not hesitate to Initiate, Pass and Raise men who only want to enter the Shrine. I believe the Shrine is one of the most valuable members of the Masonic Family and every effort should be made by Lodges to encourage interested members to join the Shrine. A man who spends his Masonic career doing the work of the Shrine will reflect well on