



Grand Lodge Bulletin

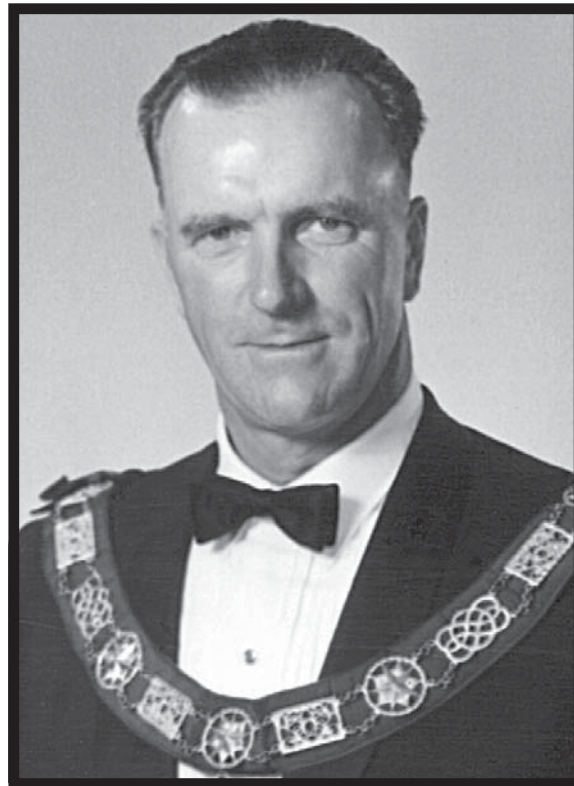
Vol. 64, No. 7

Editor: MWBro Robert E. Juthner

September 1999

MWBro The Honourable Thomas Gordon Towers Grand Master 1966-1967

MWBro Gordon Towers was born on the family homestead in the Willowdale District near Red Deer on July 5th, 1919. He had operated the family farm until 1972 when he was elected Member of Parliament for Red Deer, which constituency he served in this capacity for sixteen years. At that time he had occasion to impress the House with his sense of humour; he had learned that parliamentary rules forbade simply rising to state an opinion, so he quoted the (fictitious) "Bard of Dromore" (his own ad hoc poetry). The first such poem was delivered June 18, 1980, aimed at NDP icon (and fellow Freemason) Tommy Douglas, soon after Douglas had become a director of Husky Oil: "The working class can damn my brass, but I've got the job with Husky Gas," is how it went. Such was his subtle humour, but his serious side was also very much in evidence, and he is remembered for his impeccable integrity. As Queen Elizabeth II's representative in Alberta, he served as Lieutenant-Governor from 1991 to 1996. Despite this role being essentially a symbolic one, he did not treat the signing of government bills as just a rubber-stamp exercise, as Stockwell Day, minister in the present government, attested. Former Lieutenant-Governor Helen Hunley praised him as "a dedicated Canadian, an honourable man and a good friend" and Premier Ralph Klein called him a distinguished Albertan and referred to his intelligence, grace, quick wit and long community service. Above all, his exemplary devotion to his family



has become common knowledge.

Brother Towers was initiated, passed and raised in Red Deer Lodge No. 12 in 1944 and was Worshipful Master of that Lodge in 1953. He became District Deputy Grand Master in 1960, and was elected Junior Grand Warden in 1964, rising to the office of Grand Master of our jurisdiction for the 1966-67 term. During this, Canada's Centennial Year, it was his idea to stage a Centennial pageant, called "The Craft Hour," which was presented at the Jubilee Auditorium with successful results. His thoughts on the theme "The True Mason Thinks" are to this day preserved in our Grand Lodge Publication No. 382. Prior to his death, MWBro Towers was the senior living Past Grand Master.

Our Brother died in Red Deer Regional Hospital on June 8, 1999, in the presence of his wife Doris and his three sons and two daughters. His oldest son, Tom, said, "He was conscious right to the end, and he knew we were all there. His

mind was good right to the end... He was ready, he was at peace, and his time had come."

More than 600 mourners attended the funeral service at Knox Presbyterian Church in Red Deer on June 11th, among them the Grand Master, nine Past Grand Masters, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and many other members of the Craft which he had loved so dearly.

REJ

Conference of Grand Secretaries in North America

The second in a series of reports by RWBro G.T. Webber, begun in the June issue of this Bulletin.

One Day Classes

Bro Gary Henningsen, of the Grand Lodge of New York, addressed the Conference and then piloted a lively discussion. The highlights were as follows:

- The Grand Lodge of New York is not a proponent of One Day Classes.
- One Day Classes bring in **members**, not **Freemasons**.
- New York demands participation from the men joining Freemasonry and will not yield to the pressures of Concordant Bodies and the Shrine to satisfy their search for members.

- There is only **one** Grand Master in a Jurisdiction.
- Needed: a better selection process to toughen up on initiates.
- Freemasons are the leaders in the community, and if they are to be the premier group of men, they should look act and dress like it.
- New York believes that the recognition of Prince Hall Grand Lodges leads to a **division of races**.
- The statement was made that in the near future 60 per cent of the population of the United States will be black or from

See **One Day Classes**, page 2.

Grand Lodge Bulletin

Published each month except July and August by
The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A. F. & A. M.
 330 – 12 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2R 0H2
 403-262-1140 — Fax 403-290-0671

www.freemasons.ab.ca

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.

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|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Grand Master | MWBro J. Art Jones |
| Deputy Grand Master | RWBro Gerald T. Webber |
| Senior Grand Warden | RWBro Douglas N. Troock |
| Junior Grand Warden | RWBro Terry A. Drolet |
| Grand Secretary | RWBro John P. Knox |

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 The Editor reserves the right, due to limitations of space, 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.

Editorial

It's Grand

The Annual Grand Lodge Communication in June, in Red Deer, was indeed "grand," not only in the sense of bringing together (or at least trying to do that) the grand total of our Lodges, but also because it included a well organized and well run business session, accompanied by enjoyable social functions, and, above all, because of the perfect harmony among us all. Maybe this was because there were not earth-shaking issues to debate, but even this reason is not important — the "harmony" per se is!

The Brethren welcomed the newly elected Junior Grand Warden, RWBro Terry Drolet (Wetaskiwin Lodge No. 15) and all other elected and appointed officers and board and committee members, including our new Grand Secretary, RWBro John Knox.

What was not all that "grand" was the representation of our Lodges — of 135, 96 (71%) were and 39 (29%) were not there: 76 (56%) of the Worshipful Masters were in attendance, 59 (44%) were absent, although some of these were duly represented by one or both of their Wardens. Those close to assuming the Master's Chair showed even less commitment: 32.5 per cent of the Senior Wardens and 21.5 per cent of the Junior Wardens. This is not to say that in those cases there was a total absence of members of these Lodges, such as Past Masters and others, in fact, if they could be counted in as representing their Lodges (which they cannot), the picture would change dramatically, namely, to 127 out of 135, and that is a welcome 94 per cent. "Brotherly love and relief" forbid us to identify the eight Lodges that were devoid of any Brethren in attendance, but the "truth" will still be recorded in the 1999 Grand Lodge Proceedings.

For all these reasons, it behooves us to pay tribute to the 10 Lodges represented by their three Principal Officers.

A tip of the hat goes to: Mountain View Lodge No. 16; Strathcona Lodge No. 77; Norwood Lodge No. 90; Concord Lodge No. 124; Renfrew Lodge No. 134; Canada Lodge No. 165; Temple Lodge No. 167; Foothills Lodge No. 174; Mystic Tie Lodge No. 188; and Fiat Lux Lodge No. 1980.

Let us do better in 2000, and let us (Principal Officers) start planning our attendance right now!

Introducing the Grand Secretary

After nine successful years in the office of Grand Secretary of our jurisdiction, RWBro Gerry Webber has exchanged the Crossed Pens for the Square and Compasses of the Deputy Grand Master. It is now, with great pleasure, that we introduce his successor,

RWBro John Procter Knox

a Past Master of Kelvingrove Lodge No. 187 who had been chosen by the Search Committee (appointed by the Board of General Purposes) from a list of 18 well qualified contenders, and presented to the Board for appointment. He was invested as Grand Secretary in Red Deer on June 5, 1999.

The office of Grand Secretary is onerous and of great responsibility, requiring not only administrative skills and the ability of keeping our books out of the red, but also tact, the exercise of the best in human interaction, personality, and service to the Brotherhood. We wish him well.



Fiat Lux Lodge of Research

The next quarterly meeting of Fiat Lux Lodge of Research No. 1980 will be held at the Masonic Hall in Drayton Valley on Saturday, October 2, 1999 at 1:30 PM. It will feature the Installation of the WM-elect, RWBro Tren Cole and a Masonic Research program. All Master Masons, from near or far, are cordially invited to attend.



One Day Classes, from page 1.

other races.

Other Observations:

- In United States Jurisdictions there are more Masonic Trials than in previous years, indicating a poor selection of candidates.
- California has abandoned the traditional way and has adopted One Day Classes as a means of inducting men into Freemasonry.
- Oklahoma statistics reveal that only one out of nine candidates returned to the Lodge after having received his three degrees in Masonry.
- Oklahoma believes that every man must experience a realistic orientation and strict entrance into Freemasonry.
- New Hampshire believes that ritual is less important.

In conclusion, however, the majority of Grand Secretaries supported the One Day Class concept.

Bro Henningsen concluded his address by stating that Freemasonry is a Way of Life. "A man I can trust." We must bring back our great legacy of philosophy and morality. To preserve Freemasonry, the Masons of today must not be permitted to **change** our Fraternity to fit society, but we must **adapt** to the society of today.

Joseph Arthur Jones — Grand Master 1999–2000

Art Jones was born in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan on February 4, 1928. His father, grandfather and two uncles had originally settled with the Barr Colony in 1903.

He completed his education in the Lloydminster area and after spending some time working for the Canadian Pacific Railway he moved to the oil industry. He gained his experience in crude oil purchasing, marketing and administration. When his employer company was purchased by Edmonton interests, he was transferred to that city with his family in 1961. After 15 years in various administrative positions, he left the natural resources industry and entered the field of real estate. Following some 18 months in real estate sales, Art returned to administration when he was hired as the Public Relations and Education Administrator for the Edmonton Real Estate Board. After 7 years in this role he was appointed Executive Vice-President in 1983, a position he held until his retirement in 1993. One year later the Edmonton Realtors' Charitable Foundation asked him to become their part time Executive Manager and he has continued in this role until recently.

In recognition of his contributions to the real estate industry, Art has been made an Honorary or Life Member of the Edmonton Real Estate Board, the Alberta Real Estate Association and the Canadian Real Estate Association. He is a Past Chairman of the Canadian Executive Officers Council.

For years Art was a very active Kinsman, having joined originally in Lloydminster in 1953. While there he served in various club offices including President and was the District

Treasurer for Saskatchewan in 1956. On being transferred, he continued his involvement through the Kinsmen Club of Edmonton and eventually became the National President for Kinsmen in 1967-68. He is an Honorary Life Member of the Kinsmen Club of Edmonton and received Canada's Centennial Medal in 1967 for his service club activities.



His grandfather was a member of the Grand Lodges of England and of Ireland before immigrating to Canada when he became a charter member of Britannia Lodge No. 23, GRS, in Lloydminster. His son Alan is a member of Cornerstone Lodge No. 19 in High River. Art joined Patricia Lodge No. 91 on February 27, 1982. He subsequently took all of his degrees and served as Worshipful Master in 1988-89. He was the District Deputy Grand Master for Northern Lights District in 1992-93. Elected as Junior Grand Warden in 1996 he was installed as Grand Master in June of 1999. He is a member of the Edmonton Valley, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and a Charter Member of Al Shamal Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Art has been made an Honorary Life Member of West Edmonton Lodge No. 101 and of Oneway Lodge No. 138.

Art married Jennie Johansen in Netherhill, Saskatchewan on June 20, 1951. They have raised a family of two sons and three daughters who, in turn, have provided them with eleven grandchildren. For the past 24 years they have resided on an acreage near Oneway which takes care of any spare time that they might have available.

From The Grand Master's Inaugural Address

It is said that the mantle of leadership weighs heavily on the shoulders of him who wears it, and after reviewing the commitment and contributions of my predecessors this point becomes quite apparent. The Craft in this jurisdiction has been well served by the leaders of the past and I now give to you my undertaking that I will do my utmost to devote the same attention to the task at hand.

From my vantage point as Deputy Grand Master this past year, several items concerning the future of our Fraternity come to mind. First and foremost we must bend every effort to have programs in place within each Lodge that will make attendance rewarding and will help to stem the flow of demitting members. Let us all take some share of the responsibility in ensuring that these changes take place. The "Foundation for the Future" Committee is well equipped to introduce the necessary improvements, but they cannot do the task alone. Primarily because of the need for us all to become involved, I have chosen as my theme for the year *Begin a new Journey*.

Begin a new Journey by faithfully attending our Lodges as often as possible. Do not overlook the joy and satisfaction that comes in visiting the Brethren in other Lodges as well.

Begin a new Journey by lending assistance to the officers and the committees of our Lodges. An attitude of "Been there, Done that" does little to strengthen the Lodge or to make it a showpiece which will attract new members from our communities.

Begin a new Journey by encouraging absent members to become more involved — paying a visit, making a phone call, offering a ride. Keep in mind that it is the contact that is important and not necessarily the goal of bringing out the Brother to Lodge.

Begin a new Journey by extending the right hand of fellowship to our newer members, offering to mentor them as they begin their Masonic journey and, generally, to see that they are not neglected at a very crucial time in their development. Take advantage of the many excellent publications which are available through the Grand Lodge office to sup-

port your mentoring efforts.

Begin a new Journey by recalling to your mind the lecture received at the North-East angle and resolve to more liberally support the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund, the Masonic Foundation and the Benevolence Fund provided for our less fortunate Brethren.

Begin a new Journey by reaching out in our communities and informing the public what Masons stand for and what we believe in. At a time when society is struggling to cope with the fallout from the continual lowering of moral and ethical standards which we continue to witness, Freemasonry needs to take a stand. This is probably one of the most important issues facing our Craft today.

Begin a new Journey as we prepare to enter the year 2000, by reflecting on our own individual records and resolutions of the past and consider how we may each start the new Millennium with a clean slate and a fresh outlook.

Arising from a recent Board of General Purposes meeting, I will be striking two new ad hoc Committees to address matters of concern. First, a Committee to Investigate Amalgamations and the Surrender of Charters will determine proper procedures to be followed on these occasions, whether Charters can be allowed to lie dormant, retention of seniority and

numbers, etc. The second Committee will be asked to research and bring in a policy for Grand Lodge to consider that will act as guidelines for Lodges and other Masonic groups as they attempt to carry out fund raising within their communities. This will be an extension of the duties previously carried out by the Committee on Masonic Charities.

Throughout the year I hope to attend several special events in each District and will endeavour, when invited, to assist at the presentation of long service jewels and other milestones. Social events, installations and joint meetings will also receive priority attention. I look forward to the opportunity to meet and greet many of you at these events in the year ahead.

Although he has now retired as our Grand Secretary, I am fortunate that I will still have access to the experience and wisdom of RWBro Gerry Webber in his role as Deputy Grand Master. His contributions have been significant and are reflected in the healthy state of our Grand Lodge. To RWBro John Knox, I look forward to going through the learning curve with you as we both "Begin a new Journey" together.

Your team of elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers is enthused and excited about the year ahead. We sincerely ask for your support and encouragement and would invite each of you to join us as we "**Begin a new Journey.**"

Letters

Re: *Bow River Lodge No. 28, GRM (Bulletin, April 1999)*

I found the article very interesting again, as I had already read it during my research for "*The Coming of Freemasonry to Alberta*" about 1987. I found several additional facts, based on the following references:

- *Murdoch's Diary* (on microfilm at the Glenbow archives).
- Bow River Lodge's minute book (from the original books kept in a commercial vault that preserves documents).
- *Calgary Albertan* newspaper (on microfilm at the Glenbow archives).

The papers I wrote were published in the *Grand Lodge Bulletin* of October 1987, January, April, June 1988 and October 1991. Here are the additional facts:

The following article appeared in the *Calgary Herald* on Friday, November 30, 1983:

"Friday morning last (November 23) WBro Dr. "Nev" NJ Lindsay... was recommended and nominated as the first Worshipful Master, Bro Geo. Murdoch as the first Senior Warden, Bro Fred L. Newman as the first Junior Warden of the new Masonic Lodge which will hereafter be known as Bow River Lodge... The next meeting will be held in the hall over McKelvie's store on Friday evening next."

The minute book of the Lodge recorded the business of the evening to be the reading of the letter of authority from the Grand Lodge of Manitoba for Bow River Lodge to work under dispensation, election of Officers, and the setting of fees at \$50.00 for initiation, \$5.00 for affiliation, and \$4.00 for annual dues.

Bow River Lodge received dispensation to move the installation of Officers from December 27, 1884 to January 12, 1885, at which meeting WBro Murdoch was installed in the "Oriental Chair."

WBro Don Jackson

King George Lodge No. 59

Bro Jackson passed to the Grand Lodge above on July 1, 1999, in Calgary, Alberta.

Dear Brother Webber,

I write to you to thank you very much for sending me the current volume of your Grand Lodge Bulletin. As ever, it makes excellent and interesting reading. I was particularly taken by the Editorial "Millennium — Certainty or Confusion?"

Certainly your Editor is on the same wavelength as I am; all this nonsense about the year 2000 is rather tiresome and I am particularly delighted to note that he, at least, shares my view!!!

C. Martin McGibbon, Grand Secretary
The Grand Lodge of Scotland

The '99 Workshop



The 34th Masonic Spring Workshop, held at the Lodge at Kananaskis, was a great success and was, reportedly, enjoyed by all who attended. Nearly 300 Masons from across Alberta, including the three who can claim "perfect attendance" since 1966, and from neighbouring jurisdictions experienced a week-end of fraternal communication and instruction. The theme speaker, Bro Christopher Knight, from the United Kingdom, started the workshop with his informative and thought provoking address on Friday night. The schools of instruction which were carried on all day Saturday, proved to be very

popular and it was difficult to decide which to attend and which to forego. The excellently stocked bookstore, under the direction of Bro Al Teuling, attracted many buyers and browsers.

Now is the time to circle the dates of April 14–16, 2000, so as not to miss out on next year's edition of the Alberta Masonic Spring Workshop.

Our photograph shows the '99 General Chairman, Bro Gerry Mackenzie, and the theme speaker, Bro Christopher Knight, before the magnificent alpine backdrop of Kananaskis Village. G.Mack.

Book Reviews

The Moses Mystery

G. Greenberg, Birch Land Press, 1-55972-371-8, 308 pages, 1996, \$34.95.

This book endeavours to clarify who Moses was and his place in the early history of the Jewish people. While a serious book, not one of the more widely revisionist history type, it does border on this genre with some of its speculations.

Firstly, the author tries to place just when the Exodus took place. The Bible only provides some clues but is not specific. Many of the assumptions used, basically the naming of some cities in the Nile delta, have been used by other scholars; however, most have agreed that the information is not clear and is open to interpretation.

Moses, according to Greenberg, was the chief priest of Akhenaten's new cult. This cult has been described as an attempt at monotheism. Akhenaten's reign was a time of transition in Egypt and his cult of Aten further unsettled the country. After Akhenaten's reign several Pharaohs ruled (including "King Tut"). The country was in turmoil until a general, Horemheb, took power. Following Horemheb came Rameses I and eventually Rameses II. The author suggests that Moses, as high priest of Aten, fled during the time of turmoil, but returned when Horemheb died.

Moses tried to unite the followers of Aten and overthrow Rameses I. The coup failed and in order to avoid another period of unrest, Moses and his followers were allowed to leave. This, suggests Greenberg, is the true Exodus. Moses, after arriving in Canaan, formed military alliances with the local kings and other groups and set up the beginnings of Biblical Israel. There were no 12 tribes, the stories of Jacob and Esau are rehashed Egyptian stories. There was no patriarchal period, just Moses and his Egyptian followers.

The author worries a lot about the length of time each Pharaoh ruled. This has been a long standing problem for scholars. However, Greenberg accepts the extreme life spans in Genesis for his thesis. This seems inconsistent as he accepts Genesis' figures as reasonable and correct, but has problems with Egyptian time lines. The timing issue is critical, but unfortunately not solved. As an example, the Amarna letters, really the archives of Akhenaten, contain letters from a Labayu. This Labayu is a person of importance in Israel/Canaan. If Greenberg's timing is correct, then these letters are from a Canaanite to Akhenaten. However, in a book by D.M. Rohl, *Pharaohs and Kings*, the timing is differently interpreted and Rohl suggests that Labayu is none other than King Saul, as "Saul" is not a name but a title. King Saul of course came long after the Exodus.

The author endeavours to show that the early Israelites were of Egyptian origin, not a group who came to live in

Egypt. The leader was a high priest of a rejected religion of Egypt who left and set up his own nation. It appears this thesis is at odds with much Biblical tradition. The book is readable. However, your reviewer found many parts redundant.

Exodus: The Egyptian Evidence

E.S. Frerichs & L.H. Lesko, Editors, Eisenbrauns, 1-57506-025-6, 112 pages, 1997, \$24.95.

This book is a compilation of six papers presented at Brown University by well known academic Biblical scholars. The papers included a look at Egyptian analogies to the Biblical Exodus, a search for evidence for when the Exodus might have taken place, a look at archaeological evidence for the Exodus, and, lastly, an examination of the Exodus and archaeological reality. The evidence from these scholars is not as "flashy" as some revisionist-type writing. The dating of the Exodus seems to fall during the Rameside era, even the time of Ramses II. This is well after the placing of the event in the book reviewed above. In a nutshell, *Exodus: The Egyptian Evidence* makes it clear that there is no evidence of a massive exodus from Egypt. The picture suggested by the current archaeological evidence is that there was probably a slow leisurely departure from Egypt by small groups of Semitic people who settled in the central part of Israel. As the Egyptians withdrew from the area, the early Israelites displaced the coastal people (Philistines) and the nation of Israel began. One author suggested that as the Israelites started to coalesce into a single nation, they needed to create a heroic past. Thus, some of the leaders of the small bands leaving Egypt fused into Moses. The small bands leaving Egypt over decades became the departure of a great people from under the yoke of a great empire.

The Exodus remains a puzzle. The revisionists find a fertile area for speculation. The scholars remain unsure of whether the lack of archaeological evidence means there was no great deliverance or that there is just no evidence of it yet. If you like the speculative books on this subject, this second book should also be a must read. Get the other side of the story. It isn't glamorous, but it's all science has.

L.W. Kline

Grand Master's Itinerary

September

- 3-5 Millennium Lodge, Fort McMurray, Consecration
- 6-22 Masonic Tour, Great Britain
- 23-25 Western Canada Conference, Canmore

District Meetings

September

- 25 Yellowhead District, Pioneer Centre, Spruce Grove

October

- 14 Chinookarch District, Lethbridge Masonic Hall
- 16 Calgary-Highwood District, Bowmont Hall, Calgary
- 16 Athabasca District, Senior Centre, Fort McMurray
- 23 Palliser District, Freemasons' Hall, Medicine Hat
- 23 Northern Lights District, Onoway Legion & Community Hall
- 23 Beaverhills District, Freemasons' Hall, Edmonton
- 30 Central District, Lacombe
- 30 Three Rivers District, Cowley Masonic Hall
- 30 Lakeland District, Acacia Hall
- 30 Dinosaur District, Drumheller Masonic Hall

Alberta Miscellany

Griesbach Lodge No. 191 — “[Lack of] Participation seems to be an ailment in our modern society. There are so many interesting things that compete for our attention and before we know it our calendar is full. This type of participation turns us into human ‘doings’ and often leaves us exhausted. Yet, participation seems to be the key to finding fulfillment in our lives. How so? You may ask. The type of participation that helps people achieve fulfillment has to do with quality, not quantity. Quality is measured by how much of myself I put into an activity. By participating... and living in the moment, whether it is work, school, family, a hobby or Lodge, people tend to experience fulfillment, they feel more like human ‘beings.’ I am not condemning people with full calendars, rather I challenge them to find fulfillment in everything they do. Let the last year of the millennium (the year 2000) be a celebration for human ‘beings!’”

Glenbow Lodge No. 184 — *Calgary Habitat for Humanity Society*: Brethren, the Masonic Brotherhood is about to take on a project to build two homes in Calgary with the Calgary Habitat for Humanity Society. This project is spearheaded by Calgary Lodge No. 23 and Glenbow Lodge has been asked if there are any Brethren who would like to volunteer for this worthwhile project. If you have any skilled level ability in the construction trade to offer, it would be appreciated. Unskilled labour/assistance, e.g.: serving coffee, running errands, holding the board stretchers or fetching the skyhooks are also appreciated. If you would like to become a volunteer, please call 280-9342.

Crescent Lodge No. 87 — *An Editor's Woes*: An editor's job is no sinecure... If we print jokes, folks say we are silly. If we don't, they say we are too serious. If we publish original matter, they say we lack variety. If we publish things from other notices, we are too lazy to write. If we don't print contributions, we do not show appreciation. If we do print them, the paper is filled with junk. Like as not, some fellow will say we swiped this from another notice.

He's right, we did!

And also the following “From the East”:

The Spring Workshop had a most provocative keynote speaker this year, and his comments at the Saturday workshop were most stimulating. Is it really possible to trace the origins of Freemasonry to 3950 BC?

If you have a penny and I have a penny and we exchange pennies, you still have one penny and I still have one penny. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange ideas, you now have two ideas and I have two ideas.

From Our Masonic Family

How is the internet significant to DeMolay? Not only is it a very important vehicle for information dissemination, it is also a great way for DeMolay members, potential DeMolay members, parents of potential DeMolay members, the media and the general public to learn more about DeMolay.

What is in store for the future? DeMolay's web site is constantly expanding and evolving... If you would like to become part of creating **Tomorrow's Leaders Today!**, please contact < www.demolay.org >.

News From the MSA

Voice of America — Shortly before Presidents Day, in February 1999, a call came to the Masonic Information Center from the *Voice of America* requesting an interview concerning American Presidents who were Freemasons. Specifically, we were asked to comment on why we thought these Presidents became Freemasons and what the influence of Freemasonry was on them. This 5-minute segment was aired on Presidents Day both in English, and then translated into many languages and broadcast around the world.

In a follow-up interview, several members of the Masonic Information Center Steering Committee, meeting in Washington, DC, in early March, 1999, were asked about the history, symbolism, and purposes of Freemasonry. We believe several additional segments will be used in future broadcasts.

A&E and The History Channel — Originally shown in January and February, 1998, and rebroadcast since, the A&E Network had a show on Freemasonry in their series called *The Unexplained* and the History Channel broadcast a show in their series called *In Search of History*. Both of these shows were balanced in their presentation and have had a great deal of favorable reaction from Masons.

We get many calls as to where copies may be obtained. The source is A&E by calling **1-888-708-1776**. Ask for the video *Secret Brotherhood of Freemasons*.

Fact Sheets — In helping the MIC respond to questions about the Masonic Fraternity, our Steering Committee developed several *Fact Sheets* concerning various aspects of the Fraternity. These *Fact Sheets* have been most helpful in responding to the media and other interested parties.

(They) cover such topics as *The Organization of Freemasonry; Freemasonry and Brotherhood; The History of Freemasonry; Freemasonry and Secrecy; and Freemasonry and Religion*. Copies may be obtained by writing to the Masonic Information Center, 8120 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or faxing your request to **1-301-608-3457**.

Focus, Vol. 6:1, March 1999

Poetic License

“I'm on a Committee”

Oh give me your pity, I'm on a Committee
Which means that both morning and night
We attend and amend and content and defend
Without conclusion in sight.

We confer and concur, we defer and demur
And reiterate all of our thoughts,
We revise the agenda with frequent addenda
And consider a load of reports.

We compose and propose, we support and oppose
And the points of procedure are fun!
Though various notions are brought up as motions,
There very little gets done.

We resolve and absolve, but we never dissolve
Since it's out of the question for us;
What a shattering pity to end our committee,
Where else could we make such a fuss!

Jack Tinnion

Orpheus Lodge No. 426, Dublin
Metro Mason, Issue 2, Nov. 1998