

Masons celebrate 100th year

1975

On June 7, 1975, the banquet room of the Explorer Inn seated 278 members of the Masonic Order for supper and a program celebrating the Centennial of the local King Solomon Lodge No. 329, G. E. C. (Grand Register of Canada), (The Ancient Free and Accepted Masons) A.F. and A.M.

Instituted July 15, 1875, King Solomon Lodge has had 91 Worshipful Masters (W. M.) of whom 32 are alive today. There have been 13 secretaries, of whom the present secretary, (Very Worshipful) V.W. Bro. Warren L. Keen has had the longest term of office in that chair, 21 years. His predecessor, W. Bro. R.E. Miller served next longest, 18 years, as secretary of the local lodge.

Toast to the Visitors

W. Bro. Wilson Clark emphasized two thoughts in toasting the visitors; the fact that we were sharing in an event that would never happen again for any of those present, and the fact that Masonry was a brotherliness to all men.

Response for the Visitors

Rt. Wor. Bro. Allan Broadley saw the dramatic potential of the occasion and pointed out that another centennial would not occur for any other Primary in Brant District for another 37 years.

Many months of team-work and co-operation went into the preparation for the night of June 7. In charge of ticket sales was V. Wor. Bro. Geo. W. Walker. Every member of the local lodge and the secretary of each of the 14 primary lodges in Brant District had the opportunity of selling tickets for this Centennial Bro. Orville Walker and his team did an efficient job of directing parking at the Inn.

Special invitations were in the care of Brant District Deputy Grand Master (D.D.G.M.) Rt. Wor. Bro. Ernest Welt. The catering and entertainment were supervised by W. Bro. Ernest Craddock. Inscribe and providing of beautiful centennial water glasses for every guest was convened by V.W. Bro. Warren L. Keen. Greeting and guiding arrivals was convened by W. Bro. Fred Walker. Programmes and banquet menus, incorporating a brief history of the lodge, was supervised by W. Bro. R. J. Moore. The historical highlights were selected for printing by the present secretary of the Lodge. Registration of all members and guests was supervised by two of the senior brethren who would be acquainted with the larger number of the arrivals. Very Worshipful Alfred J. Walker and Very Worshipful Allen B. Lundy.

BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAMME

The skirl of the bagpipes (Piper) - Wor. Bro. Stewart Thurtell of Ingersoll, Ont.) heralded the arrival of the 33 head table guests. The invocation was pronounced by Rt. Wor. Bro. Rev. Arthur W. Watson, CD* BA* M.Ed.

Junior Warden's Toast

Rt. Wor. Bro. John M. Hay, Grand Jr. Warden presented the toast which traditionally brings all Lodge activities to a close. "Happy to meet, M.W. Sir; Sorry to part, M.W. Sir; Happy to meet again, M. W. Sir."

Coincident with the Centennial Observance by King Solomon Lodge this year is the 100th pilgrimage held annually to the grave of the first Gr. Master of the Gr. Lodge of Canada in Ontario. This was held June 22 during the Sunday afternoon to St. John's Anglican Cemetery, Woodhouse in Norfolk County. A quotation from the lips of this great man who served as a Judge in the Area for many years, and as Reeve both of Simcoe and of Norfolk as well as being the first Grand Master, will answer the question, What is Masonry? as well as any on record.

"The great aim of Masonry is to cultivate and improve the mind, to impress upon its votaries the truth that there is an omnipotent, omniscient and ever-living God who rules and governs all. "Such is Masonry and such its mission: and we should never forget, while enjoying its benefits and appreciating its value, the duties we owe to the order; for there is no right without a parallel duty, no liberty without the supremacy of law, no high destiny, without earnest perseverance and no real greatness without self-denial. "Every true Mason... is ever ready to assist the distressed, to abstain from unkindness, discourteousness or the malicious construction of his neighbor's motives. "The advancement of learning and science, the study of the liberal arts and especially the cultivation of brotherly love, these are some of the aims of the craft and of its votaries."

Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. The Toast to "THE QUEEN AND THE CRAFT" was proposed by Wor. Bro. Howard Knowles, Master of King Solomon Lodge.

He accompanied for the Queen and the dinner music was provided on the organ by Bo. Willard Challand, R.M.T. of Erie Lodge No. 149, Port Dover. Bro. Challand's dinner music included "Songs" from "Brigadoon," from "The Sound of Music," Selected songs from "Yesterday" and "To-day" and from the "Family Song Book," "Classical" and "Semi Classical."

Welcoming all the guests, W.M. Bro. Howard Knowles, extended a special welcome to the guest speaker for the evening, Deputy Grand Master, of the Grand Lodge of Canada in Ontario, Rt. Wor. Bro. Nancekivell M.D., of Hamilton. The chairman expressed hearty thanks to all who had helped make the occasion such a popular one.

MASONIC TITLES

To avoid confusion for those interested in the honours and recognitions given to members of the Masonic Craft is will help here to take a brief space to designate the titles. All masons are brothers, not only to others, masons but to all others, specially to those in need of a brother. The Master of a primary lodge is addressed as 'Worshipful' Master. He carries that title indefinitely unless he is appointed to a Grand Lodge Office in which case he could be addressed as 'Very Worshipful Sir.' Or he could be addressed as

'Right Worshipful Sir' if he was appointed to the office of District Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge is addressed as 'Most Worshipful Sir' and serves for two years with his officers usually, except the Grand Secretary, whose office is traditionally at the discretion of the Board of General Purposes.

Among the 33 officers were Grand Stewards, and Members of the Board of General Purposes (Very Worshipful) Grand Junior Warden, Past Grand Masters, (Most Worshipful), District Deputy Grand Masters (Rt. Worshipful), Gr. Chaplain, Grand Pursuivants (very Worshipful). There must have been many more than those sitting at the head table, for the call to stand up wherever they were, had

Past Grand Lodge Officers and Dist. Deputies and Past District Deputies standing up all across the banquet room.

Introduction of Masters

D.D.G.M. of Brant District, R.W. Ernest Welt, introduced 22 visiting District Deputy Grand Masters present. Of these, the most distant were from Tyrrell Lodge No. 741, California (R.W. Harold Becket and Friendly Lodge No. 333, of Montego Bay, Jamaica, (R.W. Orrie Handel).

Entertainment

The Choralists, directed by Mr. George Shippey, presented a medley of old-time classical, and contemporary singing including among them the following, 'Restless Wind', 'Somewhere my Love', 'Peter, Peter, on the Sea', 'Matchmaker', 'Ridin' up in de chariot in de mawn', 'Down by Yon Green Valley', 'Only a Shanty in old Shanty Town', and, as an encore, 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot'. Toast to the Grand Lodge W. Bro. John Brintnell proposing the toast to the Grand Lodge, saw the G.L.

Presentations

Bro. Gordon Blight, on behalf of King Solomon Lodge, presented the guest speaker with a most unique gavel and base. The set was hand-crafted by V. Wor. Bro. Allen Lundy from native wood to Walpole Township, and inscribed suitably for the centennial occasion. A bouquet of lovely long stemmed roses had been delivered earlier in the day to Mrs. Nancekivell at their residence in Hamilton. The D.G.M. assured all present

that he would think most gratefully of King Solomon Lodge whenever he had occasion to use the gavel in the years ahead.

Fifty year pins and cards were presented to two of the four men present who had served half-a-century as members of the Jarvis Lodge; they are V. Wor. Bro. Alfred J. Walker and W. Bro. Wm. Z. Nixon; absent were W. Bro. H. Ken Saunders and Bro. Chas. A. Parsons.

as a prod to help us get going, to help good Masons to be better Masons.

The response to the toast was given for the Grand Master by the Deputy G.M. Rt. Wor. Bro. Eric Nancekivell, M.D. His presentation was very much the main event of the evening, speaking as he did for the Grand Lodge and on behalf of the Grand Master, M. Wor. Bro. Geo. E. Turner, M.D. to King Solomon Lodge

on the occasion of the Centennial of the local lodge in Jarvis. R. Wor. Bro. Eric Nancekivell, M.D., who is scheduled to be raised to the office of GR. Master next term, spoke pointedly about 'Guarding well the Portals of Masonry, facing his address with humor and wisdom about the past and future of Masonry.