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Our Grand Master

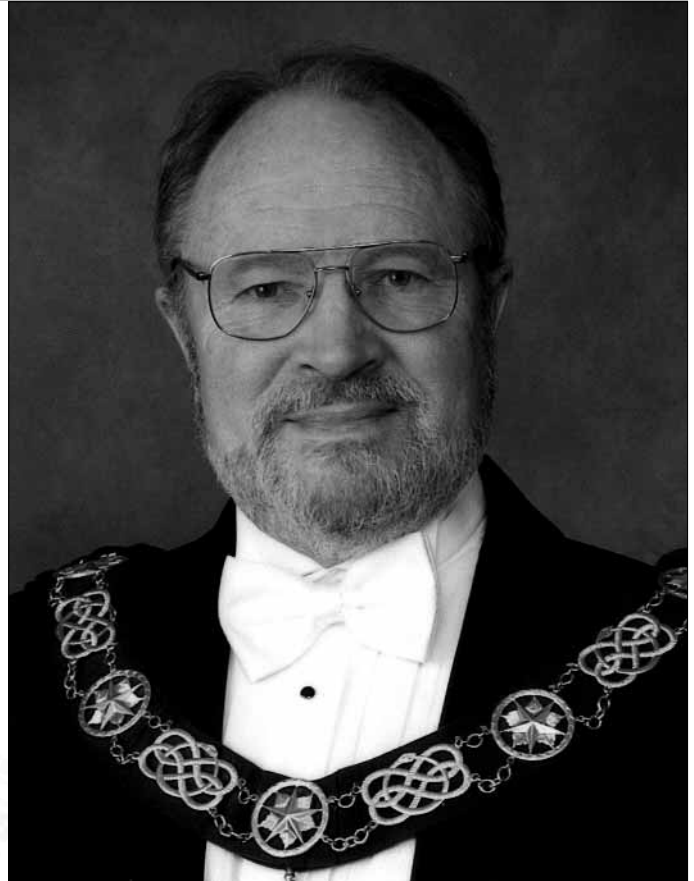
by MW Bro. Isaac Brock Brower-Berkhoven

Spring is in the air and we have practically completed our Grand Lodge visits. During the latter part of February the Grand Lodge officers accompanied by the Grand Secretary attended the *Conference of Grand Masters of North America* in Portland, Oregon. This is the largest Conference of Grand Masters in the world. This year there were fifty-nine Grand Lodges represented from an accredited list of sixty-four.

Freemasonry in North America, unlike most civic and fraternal organizations, has no elected head or supreme ruler over all regular freemasons in the United States or Canada. Each state or provincial jurisdiction has sovereign authority over the regular freemasons within its geographic boundary, regulates its own affairs and relationships, and elects its own head or Grand Master. Each votes to recognize and maintain fraternal relations with the others at their independent will

and pleasure.

From Canada, our Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodges of Manitoba, Alberta, Canada in the Province of Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Quebec were all represented. In addition to the fifty-nine Grand Lodges at the conference there were also fourteen other jurisdictions, as well as concordant bodies and the youth groups of DeMolay, Job's Daughters and Rainbow Girls. This year's attendance was the highest it has been for the last five years. The theme of the year was "Charting a New Course." It is noteworthy that the Conference of Grand Secretaries takes place at the same time and location. Our Fraternal Relations Committee was represented by four of our committeemen who became immersed in the whole atmosphere of learning, sharing and making knowledgeable decisions based on fact and



MW Bro. Isaac Brock Brower-Berkhoven, Grand Master of British Columbia and Yukon urges you to use your talents and "let your light so shine."

experience and masonic custom.

The format, after the public official opening, followed a well proven system of Breakout Sessions which were attended by your Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens and Grand Master, providing a great opportunity to expand our personal level of masonic knowledge and education. Some topics of interest were: Attracting younger freemasons, Masonic Mentorship and Education, Public Awareness and Support of our Youth Groups.

During one portion of the Conference the Grand Masters had an opportunity to participate in round table discussions of these topics: Aging Membership; Lodge Finances; Empathy; Attendance at Meetings; One-day Conferrals; Activation and Retention; Taking the Lodge into the 21st century (technology); Retention of Candidates; Public Perception of the Fraternity. From this list you will quickly determine most jurisdictions are facing similar issues as we do here.

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Our Grand Master from page one

From my perspective I found this Conference to be stimulating and rewarding, not only for myself, but for our Grand Lodge Officers, as well as our Committee members.

Another area that I continue to notice is the growing interest in MasoniChip, a child identification programme, sponsored by Freemasonry in at least seventeen jurisdictions in the US. It is a programme that records a digital photo, a digital video and digital fingerprints of children. There are also toothprints that carry a DNA sample as well. All of this is done very conveniently in about three minutes and recorded on a disk. The side benefit of this programme is the attention it brings to the masonic organization sponsoring the event. I'd be interested in hearing from you if you feel that this programme may have merit in our jurisdiction. A website address you may wish to explore is www.masonichip.org.

Thank you for your support this year—we have enjoyed being your leaders in the Craft.

Lodge notes

In the spirit of encouraging lodge visitation, some sixty brethren from "down-island" led by RW Bro. Dave Crawford, DDGM, MW Bro. Waldie Manion, and four of the Worshipful Masters of District 5 overwhelmed **Cumberland Lodge No. 26** to thank their Worshipful Master, W Bro. John Kelly for all the support he has given them through his visiting their lodges through the years.

Tyee Lodge No. 66, Prince Rupert, hosted a *Fellowship Night* in March with members, families and guests, to honour First Officer Les Palmer, Canadian Coast Guard, recipient of the Cross of Valour.

First Officer Palmer, a resident of Prince Rupert and a friend and acquaintance of several members of the lodge, was awarded the medal for his rôle in the rescue of two fishermen from a sinking trawler during a severe winter storm on the North Coast.

One of the highlights of the summer is the annual masonic get-together in Barkerville, hosted by **Cariboo Lodge No. 4**, this year held Friday 10 August to Sunday 12 August.

Brethren are asked to sign the Porch Book in the Barkerville lodge hall on Friday afternoon. On Saturday, brethren can show their current dues card to gain free admission for themselves and their families. Tickets for the Saturday evening barbeque are available in advance: \$35 a couple or \$18 each, \$10 for children aged 12 to 15 and children under twelve years of age are free. The Sunday Church Parade will assemble at the lodge hall at 9:30 am then proceed to St. Saviour's Church in Barkerville.

Notes & queries

Q. Why are our aprons blue trimmed?

A. Shortly after the establishment of the Grand Lodge of England we find in the *Rawlinson MS c. 136*, (1734): "Two Grand Masters aprons lined with Garter Blue silk and turn'd over two inches with blue silk linings."

Originally, Garter Blue was a very pale blue, "of a watery tinge", changed under Edward VI to a mazarine or light sky blue and changed again during the Hanoverian period (probably 1745) to the current darker hue.

Examples of the earliest masonic blue can be found extant on ribbons attached to Grand Lodge of Ireland lodge warrants, This is not the same as the national colour of Ireland

which is traditionally azure.

Q. From whence does the tradition arise of having all brethren assume the sign of fidelity when the Chaplain or other officer approaches the altar during the opening or closing ritual?

A. Perhaps unique to this jurisdiction, the usage of this gesture was established by MW Bro. David L. Gibson in 1988.

Q. At the festive board and in lodge, why does the Grand Master or his DDGM have the last word?

A. Although instituted by MW Bro. Robert A. Kitchen in 1983, there is no official ruling on the point. It is not so much a prerogative of the Grand Master, as it is a courtesy extended by the lodge.

Fellowcraft sign

"Practically without exception, the first introduction to the Fellowcraft sign is received from the Master of the lodge in which brethren have been passed to the second degree. The method described is virtually identical for all workings, with certain minor variations. The human body is only capable of holding a finite number of positions and consequently something resembling a Fellowcraft sign can be found anywhere from Egyptian tomb paintings to the Mexico of Montezuma or the Arabian Bektashi ritual, quite without masonic context."

"NB. Some Masters of Lodges will argue upon Reasons about the holy Vessels in the Temple and the Windows and Doors, the Length, Breadth and Height of every Thing in the Temple, Saying why was it so and so? One will give one Reason; and another will give another Reason, and thus they will continue for Two or Three Hours in this Part and the Master-Part; but this happens very seldom, except an

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Our candidates



W Bro. Herbert F. T. Chow

W Bro. Chow. was born, raised and educated in Vancouver, BC. Later the family moved to Prince George where W Bro. Chow was employed in the Logging Industry and also served as County Court Clerk.

W Bro. Chow later worked as Chief Engineer at Mission Hospital for thirty years, until he retired.

He is currently executive producer of a movie production company, "Chow Time Productions" in which he and his son, Bro. Brian Chow star in a soon-to-be released tv series.

W Bro. Chow is married to Lorraine, they have two sons, a daughter, and three grandchildren.

W Bro. Chow was raised in 1980 into Blue Mountain Lodge No. 182, becoming Worshipful Master in 1990. He is also a Charter Member of Dogwood Lodge No. 192, Aldergrove. W Bro. Chow affiliated with Landmark Lodge No. 128, Maple Ridge and is active, serving when needed.

W Bro. Chow is currently Senior Warden at Cascade Lodge No. 12, Vancouver, and has also affiliated with North Star Lodge No. 167, his recently-initiated son's lodge.

W Bro. Chow founded and sponsored a free "Prostate Test Programme" for Blue Mountain Lodge brethren, which he continues to maintain.

or Junior Grand Warden



RW Bro. Lawrence W. Link

Born in 1944 in California, RW Bro. Link relocated to Canada in 1966 after serving four years in the US Air Force as an electrician. A Canadian citizen since 2004, he has been a transportation coordinator and driver trainer for School District No. 8 for the last twenty years.

Married to Sandra since 1963, they have a son and daughter, and two grandchildren.

Raised in Nelson Lodge No. 23 in 1970, he first served as Worshipful Master in 1977, and has filled that office subsequently four more terms. He was appointed Grand Marshal in 1989 and later served as District Deputy Grand Master for MW Bro. Harold C. Norden in 1998. He is also an honorary member of Granite Lodge No. 154, Nelson. ■



VW Bro. J. Alan Cross

VW Bro. J. Alan Cross, born in Victoria BC in 1949, educated in Edmonton and Vancouver, has had a business career primarily in the banking, real estate and investment business holding several management positions. He holds a diploma in Urban Land Economics from UBC. He is a long-time volunteer in the Scouting and Sea Cadet movements as well as the Nanaimo and District Hospital Foundation, where he served as Treasurer and Board Member for ten years. He is a volunteer Cancer Car Driver.

VW Bro. Cross is married to Moya, and has two sons, Douglas and Robert.

Initiated, Passed and Raised in Vancouver Lodge No. 68 in 1972, he affiliated with Ashlar Lodge No. 3 in Nanaimo in 1986, serving as Worshipful Master in 1998. He served as Grand Steward in 2002. VW Bro. Cross is also a member of Manoah Lodge No. 141.

Active on the Committee on Finance since 1999 (excepting 2004-05) and Chairman for six years, he was a member of the Commission on Masonic Advancement in 2000-2001 and a member of the Board of General Purposes for six years.

VW Bro. Cross is active in Scottish Rite Freemasonry, Gizeh Shrine Temple and the Nanaimo and District Shrine Club. ■



VW Bro. Michael D. Yule

VW Bro Yule became a member of Mount Hermon Lodge No. 7 in 1995 and later affiliated with Melrose Lodge No. 67 in Vancouver, as well as the Vancouver Lodge of Education and Research. He was Worshipful Master of Melrose Lodge in 2000, and Mount Hermon Lodge in 2001 and 2002. He is active as Director of Ceremonies in both lodges, as well as serving as last year's Grand Pursuivant.

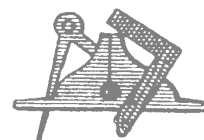
VW Bro Yule was appointed District Education Officer in District 13 in 2003 and 2004, and was a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on the Mentorship Programme in 2000. He was also a member of the Vancouver Grand Masonic Day Committee in 2003 and 2004, and has delivered original papers at Grand Masonic Day in 2004, the Vancouver Lodge of Education and Research, Victoria Lodge of Education and Research, and many other lodges. He is an enthusiastic supporter of education, ritual excellence, and other opportunities to make the lodge an enriching experience.

Educated at UBC, VW Bro Yule has been employed at Telus in various marketing and product/project management capacities since 1977, where he has demonstrated his cooperative team building, communication and leadership skills. ■

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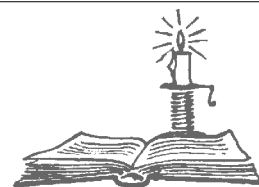
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*The Library
at
Grand Lodge*

*The Fellowcraft sign
from page two*

IRISHMAN should come, who likes to hear him-self talk, asking, Why were they round? Why were they square? Why were they hollow? Why were the Stones costly? Why were they hewn Stones and saw'd Stones &c. some give one Reason and some give another; thus you see that every Man's Reason is not alike. Therefore, if I give you my Reason, it may not be like another; but any Man that reads the foregoing and following Work, and consults the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Chapters of the first Book of Kings, and the 2d, 3d and 4th of the second Book of Chronicles, may reason as well as the best of them; for I have laid all the Rules down plain to go by."

The first paragraph is excerpted from Peter Hamilton Currie's "The hailing sign whence did it take its rise?" AQC : 1991, while the second part is quoted from the Second Degree section in the anonymously published Three Distinct Knocks (London : 1760). Your editor descends from an Irish line and if he takes no umbrage, neither should any other.

The banquet table

by RW Bro. W. W. Jenkins

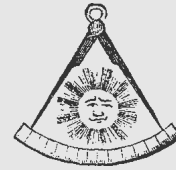
In 1932, MW Bro. J. E. Beck was Grand Master, and I was most interested in one of his memorable addresses which he delivered during one of his official visits. In making some addition to stress a recent experience on this subject, it is not my intention, nor do I presume, to gild the lily. Nevertheless, I feel sure there are many brethren today, who will agree with the observations of our late Grand Master on this subject.

The term Banquet Table is used by our fraternity for a specific reason. A Banquet is a

festival of the highest order and everything pertaining to it is prepared and served with the greatest care in order that it is acceptable to all tastes. The conversation is also expected to maintain a dignity in keeping with this elegant occasion and those who are invited by the toastmaster to give an address or even to say a few words, should strive to do so with the same meticulous care for the mind, as the culinary operatives had prepared the banquet fare for the body. The term "Banquet Table" should be regarded as much a symbol as our working tools.

There are occasions when a toastmaster invites a brother to say a few words and the speaker will preface his talk by relating a very spicy or unsavory story. Many good speakers tell us "When starting a talk there is nothing like a good joke." But to tell an off-colour story at our Banquet Table "Is nothing like a good joke".

A short time ago I was present when two bright young candidates were in attendance to receive the Fellowcraft degree. They passed their examination in open lodge with flying colours. The degree being completed, the candidates were requested to retire and invited to keep within hail and join with the brethren at the Banquet Table for refreshment. Retiring from the lodge we individually congratulated the candidates, who, in turn expressed their thanks to the officers for the very uplifting and impressive Degree. Taking our places at the table, Grace was said and in due time the toast to the Queen was proposed, after which the toastmaster called on a member for a few words, and what happened? He told an off-colour story. I noticed our two candidates look very surprised. I am sure they felt such a story was out of place, and I know a very large percent of those present were aware the speaker had soiled the linen



Grand Master's Itinerary MAY, 2007

1	Tue	Table Lodge	Mount Hermon No. 7	Vancouver
5	Sat	District No. 7	King Edward No. 28	Greenwood
6	Sun	Church Parade		Greenwood
8	Tue	District No. 9	Spallumcheen No. 13	Armstrong
10	Thu	Board of General Purposes	Grand Lodge	Vancouver
10	Thu	Crab Night	Joppa Lodge No. 112	White Rock
11-12	F-S	Spring Ceremonial Shrine		Golden
17	Sat	District No. 11	Whitehorse No. 46	Whitehorse
18	Sun	Coffee with the Craft		Whitehorse
23	Wed	Empire Night	Alliance lodge No. 193	Vancouver
26	Sat	Hyack Parade		New Westminster
27-29	S-T	Grand Chapter	Order Easter Star	

of our Banquet Table.

It seems a great pity when our officers spend so much time and care to prepare their degree work so as to deliver it in a manner that will impress the candidates with the message of morality, with dignity and grace, then within half an hour someone rises at the Banquet Table and tells an unbecoming story so over-seasoned with spice, that it dissipates the benevolent palate created earlier in the evening.

Every one enjoys good humour and a ready wit, but we should never forget our Banquet Table is a symbol of good taste, and endeavour to maintain a standard of dignity in keeping with our fraternity.

Cancer car

The Masonic Communities Charity Cancer Car Project is our Craft lodges' most visible charity. It transports hundreds of patients to and from their cancer treatments each week. It carries the term "Freemasons Care" to the public each and every day the cars are on the road.

But there is a problem of manpower. Unless the freemasons who live in the Lower

Mainland are ready to step forward and assist the programme, the flagship of masonic charity in BC cannot continue.

To maintain the programme, seventy drivers, ten dispatchers and ten computer operators are required, each working five hours a day, once a week. Those numbers do not include persons required to fill in to allow for time off for sickness, holidays and other occasions. The programme needs a lot of volunteers to keep it operational. And therein lays the problem: the shortage of manpower.

At present, over half of the drivers, dispatchers and computer operators are non-masons—including some women. But there must be many freemasons, living in the Lower Mainland, who could give five hours a week to this most worthy charity.

If you can spare a morning or an afternoon once a week please let the committee know. The rewards are the many thanks, cards and sometimes delicious cookies from grateful cancer patients.

Please contact W Bro. Don Fitzpatrick at 604-465-0987 or the Cancer Car office at 604-872-2034.