



No. 10

SEPTEMBER, 1974

ALMONERS REPORT

My last report informed you of the illnesses of W. Bro. Sam Pollard and Bro. Ken Osbourne. I am now pleased to say that they are now well on the way to a complete recovery and have in fact resumed their labours.

W. Bro. Tom King continues to improve and has resumed his duties as Preceptor of the L. of I.

W. Bro. Frank Streeter is still not too well, and was recently admitted to a nursing home, but I am pleased to say he is making steady progress and is due to return home in the near future.

I have just learned that Bro. Chum Mimpress has been admitted to Southend Hospital. I shall of course be visiting him, and I will convey to him all our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Recently I had to enter hospital for a minor operation, and I take this opportunity of thanking all those who sent me their best wishes.

Almoner.

OUR NEW MASTER

The 10th issue of the Canute Tide heralds the installation of the new Worshipful Master of Canute Lodge, Bro. Frank Ellis, and we know this can mean nothing but good for everyone of us.

Bro. Frank Phillip Ellis was born in Norwood, Surrey, on 31st May, 1923, but within a year his family had moved to Southeast Essex, which has, more or less, been their home ground ever since.

Bro. Frank began his education at Wellesley Schools, Leigh-on-Sea, but at the age of 8 years, he was accepted as a student at the Royal Masonic School for Boys. His father, an active member of Sir Francis Drake Lodge in London, had died a few months before Bro. Frank was born.

On the completion of his education at the Royal Masonic School, which incidentally he is selecting as his Charity for his year, Bro. Frank began his working career in the Town Clerks Office of the local council. It was soon after this that war broke out, and 2 years later he donned his R.A.F. uniform for the first time. He was to see about 4 years in the service, during which time he saw part of the world as an armourer.

Whilst on active service in the Middle East, he was at one time extremely ill with typhoid fever, but it is obvious by the size of him now that he made a full recovery.

On his return to Civvie Street, he resumed his career at the council offices, but after a while got itchy feet, and became a salesman. He might tell you what he sold if you ask him nicely.

It was sometime about then that he met his lovely wife Olive. They were married on 1st April, 1950, which makes this coming year a double milestone in his life, as on All Fools Day, 1975, he and Olive will celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

Twelve years ago he began a new career with the Ford Motor Company, and since that time he has moved steadily up the tree and now holds an executive position with the firm.

Bro. Frank has been in Masonry since the early 1950's when he was initiated into the Old Masonians Lodge, (I believe) in Birmingham, and he became a joining member of Canute in 1966. He has served in all the Offices in Canute Lodge, and as we all know, performed each of them with great sincerity and ability.

From now on we will address him as Worshipful Brother Frank, but we know he will not let this well deserved title go to his head and that he will remain the same sincere Mason he has always been.

So W. Bro. Frank may we wish you a most successful and happy year as our Master. I am sure I speak for all the Brethren when I say you can be assured of our full support in all your undertakings.

R.J.H.

CANUTE CHARITY SHIELD

By the time our Worshipful Master has installed his successor and W. Bro. Frank Ellis has chaired his first Festive Board, it is hoped that the Canute Charity Shield will have raised about £150 towards charity. It was hoped that by this meeting this figure would have been exceeded, but this was not to be.

However, another name, that of W. Bro. Butterfield will now be inscribed on the shield in the act of brotherly love.

Somewhere a distressed Brother, or his dependant, will have some of his sufferings relieved because of your generosity.

The Canute Charity Shield will continue to circulate in the cause of Truth, for its credentials are:-

"SODALITAS SOLACEUM VERITAS"

A.G.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF ESSEX

59 Palmerston Road
Buckhurst Hill
Essex IG9 5NY

Dear Brother Secretary,

After many enquiries, much searching and many disappointments, the Province has at last completed the purchase of permanent office accommodation.

The premises are situated in Ilford, near to Gants Hill Station. The total cost including purchase of freehold property, repairs, decorations and new equipment where required will be in the region of £27,000.

After all the monies in the General Fund of the Province have been made available, it is estimated that a further £17,000 will be required to finance the purchase price and associated costs. It is intended to raise this sum by means of loans to be repaid by use of future surpluses of the General Fund.

I am therefore appealing for interest-free loans from Brethren and Lodges in the Province, thereby reducing or perhaps even eliminating the necessity of a Bank overdraft. Several Brethren have already helped to the extent of £5,500 and I feel sure that there must be many others who would be prepared to make loans. Any amount from £5 upwards would be "thankfully received and faithfully applied". Furthermore, many Lodges have money in their General Accounts or Benevolent Funds in excess of their immediate needs which could be made available to the Province for a period. Loans from individuals or Lodges will be repaid when no longer required by the Province or at any time at three months' notice.

Will you please pass on this appeal to your Lodge. An average of £50 per Lodge is needed, but as some Lodges cannot be expected to contribute owing to local commitments, it is suggested that Lodges should regard a total of £100 from Lodge funds and individuals as a reasonable target. The more support we have and - more important - the more speedily that support is given, the less we shall have to pay in interest to the Bank and the sooner we shall start repaying the loans.

Many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

I.K. Corbett.

In our last issue we were very pleased to re-print a letter from W. Bro. H.E. England, P.G.D., P.Prov. G. Sec., which kindly expressed his appreciation of the Canute Tide.

I am once again very pleased to report that we have had another communication from him, offering for our use the Grand Lodge Bulletin, from Grand Lodge of Iowa, U.S.A., a Masonic Journal which is regularly sent to him from the United States of America.

Our grateful thanks are extended to W. Bro. England for this valuable source of material, and we assure him it will be used to good effect.

R.J.H.

RESIGNATION OF OUR TREASURER

As most of the Brethren of Canute are aware, W. Bro. Clarry Garnett has resigned from the Office of Treasurer.

It is always sad when someone finds it necessary to retire from a post he has ably carried out for many years, but we know that W. Bro. Clarry will have very good reasons for doing so.

We would like to express to him our very sincere and heartfelt thanks for the long years of service he has given to Canute Lodge, not only as Treasurer, but also as a Mason.

R.J.H.

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

This was the first meeting after the traditional summer recess, where because of the long lay off mistakes are likely to occur. Not on this occasion, which I think is probably due to the tremendous spirit prevailing at the moment in the L. of I.

Everything went smoothly, with our Worshipful Master Passing Bro. MacIntosh, and W. Bro. Angus Grant Initiating Bro. Mudie. The officers, as we have come to expect of them, performed with dignity and perfection, and are deserving of the highest praise.

At this meeting you graciously elected me Master Elect, so probably my next contribution to the Tide, will be as your Master.

As is usual at this meeting we were upstairs, the weather outside was great and the atmosphere inside was hot, so it is worth noting for the first time at the Festive Board for many years we had a cold meal. To me and others sitting near me, this was just right, and helped to set the tone of the rest of the evening.

I can only say that I thoroughly enjoyed my last meeting as Senior Warden, but that I am looking forward to the challenge of the Masters Chair. During the coming year, as an Old Boy of the Royal Masonic School for Boys, I will be making this my Charity, and as I said at the Festive Board, I am going to use whatever means I can to open your hearts and pockets for this cause.

S.W.

LADIES FESTIVAL 1975

For this Festival we are having a change of venue, and it will be held at the Lindisfarne Banqueting Rooms, Valkyrie Road, Westcliff-on-Sea. Naturally I am hoping it will be a move for the better.

My main considerations for making the change were the acoustics, which are not up to scratch at Garons, and also I am hoping for an improvement in the meal.

I am looking for various ways and means that this Festival could be improved, and I hope you will give me your full support by turning up in your droves on 11th April, 1975.

F.P.E.
M.E.

IN APPRECIATION

This issue coincides with the Installation of the new W.M. of Canute Lodge, and we would like to record here the Lodge's appreciation of W. Bro. Bill Butterfield, who hands over that coveted and ancient office today.

We could, I am sure you will all agree, write pages on the attributes of W. Bro. Bill, but we do not wish to embarrass him. Yet how does one sum up a person of his stature in a few words.

He has without doubt maintained all the traditions of Masonry, and under his leadership the Lodge had grown in strength and stature. Those of us who have had cause to seek his advice in his capacity as Master and also as a friend, are grateful for his statesmanship, understanding, sound judgement, kindness, consideration, cheerfulness and total selflessness. All of these and many more virtues that he possesses enhance his ability to grasp a situation at once, and to give sound advice in a moment, that others could not give after many hours of deliberation.

Thank you W. Bro. Bill for a truly marvellous year. We hope it has been all that you hoped it would be. May you be with us for many years to come to continue to give us the help and advice we all, at times, need.

R.J.H.

R.M.B.I. ANNUITANTS HOLIDAYS

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those Lodges, Chapters and individual Brethren who, over the last nine years, have made it possible to entertain some of our R.M.B.I. Annuitants, whilst on their holidays in Southend.

This year we were pleased to have 30 such Annuitants who stayed at the Roslin Hotel, Thorpe Bay for two weeks. The hotel charges are met by the Good Neighbour Fund, and we make ourselves responsible for all their needs and entertainment whilst they are with us.

I should like to mention here that these holidays came about through a casual conversation with the Secretary of the R.M.B.I., W. Bro. Alun Lloyd, D.F.C., some nine years ago, and since then we have regularly entertained 30 Annuitants each year, some of whom have enjoyed their first holiday in thirty years.

None of this could have been achieved without the cooperation and financial help which has always been so freely given.

I now find that owing to the catastrophic inflationary crisis we find ourselves in, the cost of providing these amenities have more than quadrupled since we first began our truly Masonic enterprise.

I would therefore ask you to please continue to support this local effort, whereby so much can be done to spread a little Masonic Light to those unfortunates who mostly live alone, and who have derived so much pleasure from the few acts of kindness and friendship we have, through your generosity, been able to bestow on them for the short time that they are with us.

Yours very sincerely,

Morry Woolf.

SO MOTE IT BE

This phrase first appears in a Freemasonry M/S dated 1390, the closing words being:-

"Amen, Amen, so mote it be
Say we all for charity".

Another M/S dated 1810 says:-

"Amen, so mote it be".

In the middle ages in England "So mote it be" literally meant "So be it", and was used at the end of a prayer.

"Amen", which is a Hebrew word has several meanings all related to Fidelity, Constancy, Sureness, Trust, and when used at the end of a prayer or blessing is meant to imply, "Truly we believe that it is or will be so".

It will be seen that originally the word "Amen" and the phrase "So mote it be" had different meanings, but over the centuries they have become regarded as having virtually the same meaning.

This may be the reason why "Amen" is now omitted from Freemasonry usage.

D.C.

CANUTE LODGE CHRISTMAS TREE

At one of the Extra Mural Committee meetings earlier this year, certain of the Brethren felt that Masonry was too inward looking, and that other organisations etc., showed their charity by supporting various institutions. The question was raised that perhaps Canute Lodge could do something of a similar nature.

During the ensuing discussion it was held that Masonry itself was in desperate need of all the support it could get from its members, a fact that all the committee members wholeheartedly agreed with.

However it was felt that perhaps we could do some small thing for the handicapped of this world, and the suggestion of a Christmas Tree was made. The idea was discussed and it was decided to seek permission to place the tree in the Temple, requesting all Lodges in the Southend-on-Sea area to assist with our appeal for a gift to the handicapped for Christmas, 1974.

Permission was granted for the tree to be placed there, and at the time of writing this article, efforts were being made to obtain a suitable tree, and to have it erected in time for the Installation Meeting.

If our efforts prove successful this year we would hope to make it an annual event. We have been in touch with the necessary persons and we are assured any assistance they can get will be most welcome, and they are prepared to accept anything that can earn them money, which of course is their most desired commodity.

So Brethren do not come empty handed to the Installation Meeting, but bring a gift for a handicapped child. It does not matter what it is, be it large or small, be it a toy or that wedding present that Auntie Ada gave you that you never did have any use for. Bring it along to the Temple and place it under the Canute Christmas Tree, Here is a wonderful opportunity to show true charity to those unfortunate children outside of Masonry. So let us all make a really good effort to help some of these children enjoy their Christmas as we ourselves all hope to do.

R.J.H.

SOUTHEND MASONIC WELFARE TRUST

As the Lodges in the Southend Area were materially responsible for the formation of the S.M.W.T., we are pleased to report progress to date.

Although this Trust bears the name of Southend, it is in fact applicable to all members of Essex Lodges, and of course their families. The objects of the Trust are to help with convalescence, and with the provision of therapeutic and recreational aids, and also to assist with holiday arrangements for Brethren and their families who bear the burden of chronically ill or infirm dependants.

The Grand Ball which heralded the Trust was an immense and immediate success, bringing great enjoyment and entertainment to all who attended, and realised over £2,500. Further donations made this sum £3,000, which has been suitably invested.

Several calls for help have already been received; on one occasion the Trust was unable to assist because the lady wished to convalesce outside Southend and no accommodation was then available. This has now been remedied and the Trust is in contact with convalescence homes in Kelvedon and Clacton.

Incidentally, although the Trust was unable to assist in that instance, the Lodge concerned offered the use of a new collapsible wheelchair, which is now available and for which the Trust is most grateful.

Other applicants have been accommodated in a local hotel or in a nursing home.

The Trustees would be pleased to hear of any cases where assistance is required.

A second Grand Ball in support of the Trust will be held at the Cliffs Pavilion, Westcliff-on-Sea, on Thursday, 13th March, 1975, and it is hoped the Brethren will again give this function their generous support.

THE COWAN

All of you are familiar with the phrase, "To keep off all intruders and cowans to Masonry".

The word cowan was peculiar to the old Scots Operative Lodges, and in their M/Ss., describe him as being a cowerer, kirkwan, or couen, meaning a dry-waller or dry dyker, for the reason that he built walls and dykes with stone but without mortar. He also built outhouses and other buildings in a similar manner. All over Scotland we find the broch or tower of intricate design, built centuries ago of square mortarless stone held together by their weight. There is no doubt these were the work of Cowans, and proves that they must have been highly skilled. It is not surprising therefore, to find that they frequently did skilled work under licence for the mason fraternities, and in doing so added to their skill.

The old operative Lodge of Kilwinning allowed a Master Mason to employ cowans for any kind of work when no regular craftsmen could be found within a distance of 15 miles, thus proving that it was

not his skill that was in question, but his status.

Everything seems to indicate that a cowan was one who had failed his apprenticeship, or was a labourer who had obtained his knowledge by observation, all of whom would not have been admitted to the "Masons Fraternity" and entrusted with the "Masons Word". This was only given to those who had successfully passed their apprenticeship, and thus automatically become entitled to the privileges of the Fraternity, and thereby proved to be true operative masons.

The word cowan is first mentioned in Scots Operative Lodges in 1599, but nobody since seems to have traced its origin. Several interpretations of the word have been advanced, all too lengthy to be gone into now, but in 1738, when it became incorporated into English Freemasonry, it became a derogative word, and was the reason why Anderson in his Constitutions of 1738, stated "Free and accepted Masons shall not allow cowans to work with them, nor shall they be employed by them without an urgent necessity, and even in that case, they must not teach cowans etc. etc".

So although the skill of a cowan was acknowledged, and his services sought in cases of emergency by the operative mason, he was not allowed to become a member of the Fraternity and be entrusted with the "Masons Word".

Over many years the cowan has always appeared to have been regarded with suspicion, whereas all that could be said of him was that he was not a Mason.

D.C.

RESUME OF COMMUNICATION FROM THE ROYAL MASONIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

The Most Worshipful Grand Master has appointed a steering committee to co-ordinate and implement the necessary changes subject to the adoption of the Bagnall Report, which may well result in fundamental changes in the present Status Quo concerning the 2 Masonic Schools.

Briefly the objects are for the R.M.I.G. and R.M.I.B. to amalgamate to bring about co-education in a single establishment at Rickmansworth under the umbrella of a new body 'The Educational Trust'.

Rule 2 states - "Members of the Institution shall be the President, Trustees and Treasurer and (ranking in the following order of seniority) Patrons, Vice-Patrons, Vice-Presidents, Life-Governors, and Life-Subscribers". All Patrons and Vice-Patrons are automatically included in the Postal Voters' List all others who have subscribed £5.25 in one lump sum or more can, vide Rule 28, lodge with the Secretary of the Institution on or before 30th November in any year a formal request, in writing, stating his name and address and asking to be placed on the Postal Voters' List for the next ensuing year. Annual renewal is necessary if the Member wishes to continue to be placed on the Postal Voters' List.

Cards have been printed and are available for the Members of your Lodge to make this formal request and I shall be pleased to forward as many of them as you require.

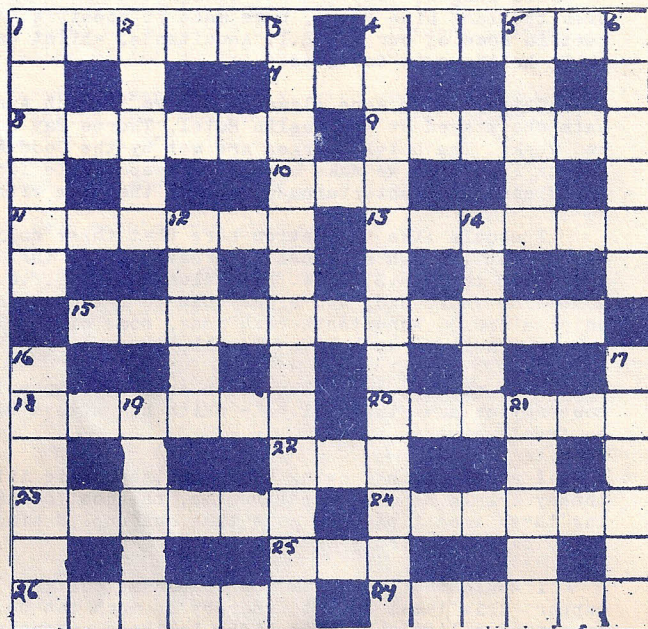
ANY OLD IRON AGAIN

You may recall an article in a previous issue of the Tide, an offer of free advertising space for any Brother who may have some unwanted chattel that he wished to sell.

To date we have not had any response, so once again we repeat the offer.

A small donation would be expected on the completion of any subsequent transaction, and this would go either to the Master's List, or to a Charity of the vendors choice.

R.J.H.



CLUES

Across.

1. Rubies work harder. (6)
4. In part of them bryony is beginning. (6)
7. Locally important. (3)
8. Cold comfort after visiting 7. (6)
9. Sampled. (6)
10. First Lady (3)
11. Shared among thieves and judges! (6)
13. A surmise that we had a drink? (6)
15. A generator of a previous age? (13)
18. Please let him rest. (6)
20. I'm in a scene - mixed with my female kin! (6)
22. Top among the girls. (3)
24. Writers' mistakes. (6)
25. One very long time. (3)
26. Space and time for rest. (6)
27. Worship at the small favourite elm - confusing? (6)

Down.

1. Corn remover? (6)
2. The grim ship's quarter. (5)
3. Temptation for the First Gentleman? (4,3,6.)
4. Neat interment may be diverting (13)
5. The operation hides the quantitative relationship. (5)
6. They're taken, given, entered - yet never donated! (6)
12. Odd shape of the bird - on arrival! (5)
14. North home wrecked - by Gibson? (5)
16. One twin. (6)
17. Part of the rest ate their inheritance. (6)
19. Nice Music, Cyril! (5)
21. A hundred on a damaged pram; overcrowded? (5)

Solution next issue.

We are indebted to Bro. Stan Brown, Old Southendians Lodge, for this issues Crossword.

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD No. 9

Across. 1. Capitals. 7. Swot. 9. Gothic. 10. Nought. 11. Egg. 12. Aster. 14. Ambit. 16. Cab. 18 Master. 20. Arcade. 22. Abandons. 23. Adam. 24. Restless. Down. 1&15. Cowboys, Indians. 2. Pitch. 3. Thrice. 4. Living. 5. Leech. 6. Vacuum. 13. Extent. 16. Creole. 17. Bassett. 19. Abbey. 21. Crate.

Now try this one:-

O T T F
F S S E
N T - -

Fill in the two blank spaces with the correct letters. The first correct answer received will win a small prize, which has been donated by W. Bro. Angus Grant.