



No. 15

MARCH, 1976

JANUARY MEETING

The 332nd Regular Meeting of the Lodge was held at Freemasons Hall, Woodgrange Drive, Southend-on-Sea, on 10th January, 1976. Of necessity, a January Meeting must be of particular interest, being the first meeting in which a New Master and his Officers have a chance to show their paces. This they certainly did and W. Bro. Geoff Bond and my fellow officers are to be congratulated on their performances. More the pity that this meeting is not better attended.

Bro. Eric Hardy was raised by W. Bro. Dave Howell in the usual efficient manner we have come to expect of him. Congratulations Eric, well done Dave.

It was after the refreshment break that our new Master gave ample proof of what we members of the Lodge of INstruction at least, already knew, that he has a fine command of the ritual. One could not but admire and enjoy the manner in which Mr. John Cackett was initiated. Welcome to the Lodge Bro. John and may your association with Masonry in general and Canute Lodge in particular be a long and happy one.

There is no doubt in my mind that gastronomically speaking, the steak and kidney pudding served at the Festive Board, was the "star" of a most enjoyable afternoon and evening.

S.W.

ALMONERS REPORT

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of W. Bro. Charles Hall, our Secretary of many years standing. This was an office he carried out to the utmost of his ability. There is no doubt he was a true Mason and he will be sadly missed throughout Masonry in the Southend area, and we extend to his family our deepest sympathy.

Our sympathy is also extended to Mrs Williams on the sad loss of her husband Bro. Joe, who died after a short illness on 5th February, at Southend Hospital.

I have to report that W. Bro. Angus Grant is again in Oldchurch Hospital, where he has undergone surgery in connection with the cerebral haemorrhage he suffered last year. At the time of writing he was not as well as he had been, but hopes are high of a full recovery. Incidentally anyone wishing news of him, please contact Bro. Bob Hyde tel. Southend 547367.

Almoner.

A VISITING WE DID GO

We took the narrow gauge railway from Benidorm. Through miles of heavily laden orange and lemon groves, orchards of almonds in full blossom, terrace after terrace of short, hard pruned vines of the Muscatel grapes, chugged our way through the streets of the town, and finally reached the fishing port of Denia.

The harbour was amass with fishing boats of all shapes and sizes, while the path and roadway were covered with nets drying out in the sun.

We took lunch in a waterside cafe and were able to sample their delicious grilled sword-fish and of course, the local wine.

With an address written in English, we found the taxi-rank, and caused great consternation and dismay among the 5 taxi-drivers as they debated (as only the Spanish can debate) as to how to get there.

At last we were underway and after several calls at villa's owned by English speaking people, eventually found one who not only knew Senor and Senora Price, but was able to direct the driver to their abode.

We duly arrived to be greeted by the Spanish gardener with the news that they had gone to visit an amigo.

The villa was so impressive that we took the liberty of photographing both front and rear, and leaving a note in the letter-box with our regrets etc., and had travelled about two hundred yards (or should I say metres) on our journey back, when we met Bill and his party returning.

After the initial shock, he insisted the taxi-driver be paid off, promising to get us to the station in due course. W. Bro. Bill and his wife Pam, are obviously, and justly proud of their efforts in designing the villa, the like of which one would be hard pressed to find outside the pages of Ideal Homes. It really is something, lounge, dining room, fully fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, three bathrooms, patio doors, courtyard, swimming pool, showers, etc. etc. etc. Not only were we impressed by the building, but also by the welcome and courtesy extended to us by Bill and Pam.

We were finally taken to the station, with firm instructions to return and convey to all members of Canute Lodge and the Lodge of Instruction, their best wishes.

H.S.L.

CANUTE LADIES CIRCLE

On Thursday, 22nd January, 1976, the first meeting of the Canute Ladies Circle was held at the home of one of the members.

It was decided that a meeting would be held on the fourth Thursday of each month. These meetings would take the form of an informal gathering at a different member's home each time - coffee and biscuits provided by the hostess.

The purpose of these meetings is to provide an opportunity for Canute lodge Members' wives to meet one another on an informal basis in a friendly atmosphere, and to help the menfolk in their fund raising activities. All present were agreed that we would make a modest beginning by holding these monthly meetings and let events develop from there.

At the first meeting twelve ladies attended and we were able to make a start by contributing £6.00 towards the Guide Dog for the Blind. Mrs Peggy Osbourne was elected Treasurer, and Mrs Olive Ellis will be looking after the other aspects of organisation for the Ladies Circle.

If there are any wives of Canute Lodge Members who would like to join our Circle, we would be very pleased to welcome them at our next meeting. Please contact Olive Ellis, Tel: South Benfleet 3190 for information re. time and place of next meeting.

O.E.

WOMAN

WOMAN - She's an angel in truth, a demon in fiction - A woman's the greatest of all contradiction; She's afraid of a cockroach, she'll scream at a mouse, But she'll tackle a husband as big as a house. She'll take him for better, she'll take him for worse, She'll split his head open, and then be his nurse, And when he is well and can get out of bed, She'll pick up the teapot and throw at his head. She's faithful, deceitful, keen sighted and blind, She's crafty, she's simple, She's cruel and she's kind. She'll lift a man up, she'll cast a man down, She'll make him her hero, her ruler, her clown. You fancy she's this, but you find she is that, For she'll play like a kitten and fight like a cat. In the morning she will, in the evening she won't, And what you expect her to do - well, she won't.

THE JANUARY MEETING

The Meeting held on 10th January, 1976, was again a memorable occasion for those who attended.

W. Bro. Geoff Bond vacated the Chair in favour of our Chaplain, W. Bro. Dave Howell, who raised Bro. Eric Hardy. The ceremony was performed in the most capable and sincere manner, in which W. Bro. Dave was backed up with some excellent floor work by the other officers.

On return to labour, W. Bro. Geoff initiated Bro. John Cackett. This too was a very fine rendering, and one that Bro. Cackett will come to realize was as sincere as any he is likely to see in all his Masonic career.

At the Festive Board we were treated to our usual excellent meal, after which were some fine speeches, (discounting one remark by our Immediate Past Master when proposing the toast to W. Bro. Geoff).

The choir was in fine voice and welcomed Bro. Cackett with their version of the Entered Apprentices Song.

In all a very good meeting, with perhaps one regret, that we were rather short of actual Lodge members, which some of felt may have been a little disappointing for our 'New' Master, at his first full meeting.

R.J.H.

SOMEONE.....SOMEWHERE

Whilst he was on holiday, I met W. Bro. H.F. Hallums, Corsham Lodge, No. 6616. He subsequently forwarded on to me the words of, what is believed to be, the oldest Worshipful Master's Song. He did not, however, have the music.

"We have toasts in the Craft, among others,
That specially thrill through the breast,
While singing in praise of our brothers,
Who rightly rule over the rest.
The blood in our veins flows the faster,
As the health is proposed loud and free,
Of our excellent Worshipful Master,
For a jolly good Mason is He.

CHORUS: Here's a health to our Worshipful
Master,
Beloved of us all on the square,
Let his name in the Craft,
With all honours be quaffed,
And prosper the Art everywhere.

Though we greet him with hearty ovation,
As monarch o'er all he surveys.
We must help him on every occasion,
His banner, masonic, to raise.
Our love and obedience requite him,
Our zeal in the cause give him bliss,
And our harmonies ever delight him,
With a chorus as friendly as this.

CHORUS:

At the sound of his voice, or his gavel,
Let smiling attention prevail.
None dreaming to cark or cavil,
But silently utter, "all hail".
May this year be a season of gladness,
His cup and his cupboard, be full,
And our way to ward off care and sadness,
Is with him together to pull."

CHORUS.

(Ignoramus note: Concise Oxford Dictionary:
Carking:.....Burdensome
Cavil:.....(Raise) captious objection).

Some months later, when visiting Loyalty Lodge, No. 243, at a normal meeting, the Toast to the Worshipful Master was sung to this chorus, (to which I do have the music):

"Here's a health to our Worshipful Master,
Whose actions are all on the square,
May the Great Architect,
Guide, rule and protect.
And Prosper the Craft everywhere".

These words are basically those in the first paragraph. All of which means that I am short of the music for verses only. Without doubt, someone, somewhere, has the words with the music. HELP! The last appeal for the Tylers Song, now sung regularly in Canute, was answered by W. Bro. R.S. Buck, and our own Bro. Bob Dillon. My thanks once again.

My final appeal is for the MasterMasons and Wardens Songs. From Suffolk I have:

"Fast is east, and west is west,
And ne'er the twain shall meet,
Till one installs the other,
In King Solomons ancient seat".

These words are reminiscent of Rudyard Kipling, but I cannot find them in Libraries, nor can I find any music. I believe this to be the Wardens Song.

Master Mason's Song? No trace beyond Sudbury Temple visit, where some of us heard the words:

"Worthy Masons all, worthy Masons all,
The Queen, the Craft, and the Mystic Tie,
Worthy Masons all."

also

"Prosper the man, prosper the Craft,
Join in the chorus and prosper his (Lodge)".

Let me repeat the Canute slogan. "You bring 'em, we'll sing 'em". Incidentally Morrie, how about that (original) closing hymn?

J.B.

PERMANENT GUESTS REPORT

I was watching 'Nationwide', B.B.C. T.V. on Tuesday, 3rd February, during the programme about Southend-on-Sea, when the Leigh Cocker Sheds hove into view, and within the square I observed Bro. Steve Lawrence sieving some of the shellfish. As I saw this fine, upright, honest figure of a man, I recalled that his father, Edie, a not-so-fine not-so etc. etc., had invited me to the St. Margaret's Lodge for their Installation Meeting the next day.

The friendliness of St. Margaret's Lodge is unsurpassed by any other in my limited experience. To those who have visited rural lodges, it is of that type. The Installing Master, "Pie" Osborne, remarked that the New Master, Eric Collins, unlike him, would speak the Queen's English. There were 82 Brethren present, although only sixty - odd were anticipated. Amongst them I noted Bro's. Mimpress and Osborne.

My chief recollection of the evening? Well, you will recall the numbers dining had increased considerably and will appreciate that the Table Plan had been prepared prior to the meeting. We therefore had the St. Margaret's version of 'Musical Chairs', alternatively styled, 'Meddling up the Ray Creek'. Finally we got sorted out, with only one brother complaining of his position - my host. He complained bitterly, or should that be larger-ly (?) on being seated alongside me. The D.C., W. Bro. Bill Meddle, listened not, but gave me a lecture on the catching of whitebait, which we of course we had at the beginning of a sumptuous meal. As I recall it went rather like this:

"Whitebait are difficult to catch, particularly this freezing weather. I was up this morning about 3 a.m. to get them for you lot. We catch them on handlines, and have but four hooks per line".

Needless to say he had the same respect and attention that L.C.'s. usually receive.

I was invited by Bro. Henry Poper to attend Prittlewell Installation Meeting on 7th February, and accepted, as did about 160 other brethren. I noted W. Bro. Bert George, Bro's. Faslea and Mimpress were also present.

We saw W. Bro. Aubrey Parfett installed by W. Bro. John Savage. I loved Aubrey's touch towards the end when, addressing the I.P.M. he said, "I suppose you look forward to a life of ease now you are I.P.M. let me assure you that with me here, it will be no such thing".

My memory of the meeting? Immediately prior to standing in silence for a departed brother, W. Bro. Ron Hillman spoke a few words about Br. Jimmy Wale. I have never heard a better or more sincere token of esteem. I wrote down the final few words:

"For he lived respected, and he died regretted".

20th January, 1976, was the 210th Installation Ceremony of the Lodge of True Friendship, No. 160. I had been invited by Bro. Frank Flaville, their organist for nearly fifty years, and who, incidentally, played at the Canute Lodge of Instruction Meeting at the Temple in 1975. Unfortunately, Bro. Frank died on 12th January, and I attended with Bro. Cyril Milbourn.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Meeting, at which I am told 160 brethren were present, a coincidence. Another of the visitors was, I observed, our own W. Bro. Sam Pollard.

The Installed Master, W. Bro. C.A. Wilson, followed his father into the same chair 21 years later. The nicest touch of the evening came when the W. Bro. Director of Ceremonies announced the procession 'out', "The Master, followed by his father.....".

Masonic Lodges being "female", this Lodge must be strange, in that it constantly refers to its great age. It is customary at their Installation to read out the Minutes of a Meeting some 150 years ago. This year however they chose two from the 1917 - 18 period, as this covered the entry into Freemasonry of the New Masters Grandfather. Reference was made to proposal forms not being used in World War 1, the names being accepted in letter form. I later saw one such letter attached to the Minutes Book. The Minutes of the 1918 meeting also referred to the discontinuance of the 'Fourth Degree'. (Was it ever used? - 1922?).

My memory of this particular evening? Well, the Minutes of the meeting held at the Old Ship Hotel, Rochford, January 8th, 1918, contained reference to something which really caused me to sit up. At the end of the Meeting, W. Bro. Derrick Smoothey, Secretary, allowed me to read it myself. It announced a new joining member for True Friendship, Bro. Arthur Keeling. Guess his Mother Lodge? Canute Lodge, No. 3104.

I had handed the above report to Bro. Hyde, when on Saturday, 24th January, I visited W. Bro. Charles Hall. I spent about half an hour with him, and found him to be very alert, though far from his usual self.

I mentioned my visit to True Friendship, adding a few of the details. He then informed me that Bro. Arthur Keeling was the former Parks Superintendent, living in Southchurch Park, where the present Cafe now stands.

My memory of this visit, was when Charles told me that Bro. Keeling had a daughter, who married a Mr. Sharp, who in later years was the proposer, in Canute Lodge of - yes - W. Bro. Charles Hall.

J.B.

Canute Ladies Circle

Our second meeting was held on Thursday 26th February and we extend our thanks to Hazel Easlea who was our hostess on this occasion.

Three new members were welcomed and further activities for the Circle were discussed these included a Bargain Evening and possibly an outing towards the Summer. This time we were able to donate £7.50 to the 'Guide Dog for the Blind' fund. Other monies were also raised, by means of a 'Bring and Buy' Sale, to put in hand for future activities of the Circle.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 25th March when we intend to have a 'Bingo' session. This should be quite fun and, ladies, you have a chance to have a little flutter.

We should still like to welcome any other wives of Canute Lodge members who would like to join us. Please contact Olive Ellis - telephone: South Benfleet 3190 - for further information.

THE DOVE AS THE DEACONS EMBLEM

What is the origin and meaning of the Dove as the Deacons Emblem.

The office of Deacon with the figure of Mercury as its emblem was common in lodges under the Antients Grand Lodge, but only occasionally in those under the premier Grand Lodge. The Lodge of Promulgation set up by the latter Grand Lodge in 1809, to ascertain and promulgate the Ancient Landmarks of the Order and to instruct the Craft in such matters, agreed that the Deacons were not only ancient, but useful and necessary officers. At the union of the two Grand Lodges in 1813, the office was formally established and the emblem changed from the figure of Mercury to a Dove. (From the classical to the biblical). The Deacons' duties are clearly defined in the ritual, the one to bear the W.M.'s commands to the S.W., the other to carry the W.M.'s messages and communications from the S.W. to the J.W. They are therefore messengers in the Lodge, and Mercury as their former emblem would seem to have been appropriate - Mercury with winged feet and helmet being the mythical Messenger of the Gods.

The reason behind the change from Mercury to a Dove has so far gone unexplained. Although Mercury has been regarded as the messenger of the gods, he was also, in Roman mythology, the God of Merchandise and protector of traders and thieves. For this reason it may well have been thought to be inappropriate, as indeed it was, to have such a figure as emblematical of a Lodge officer. The Dove in addition to its symbolism of peace, may also be regarded in some ways as a messenger and therefore appropriate. The first Dove sent by Noah returned with its message that the waters had not subsided. The second Dove's message was that the waters were going down

and that trees were showing. The message implied by the non-return of the third Dove was that the flood was ending, enabling the bird to return to its natural habitat.

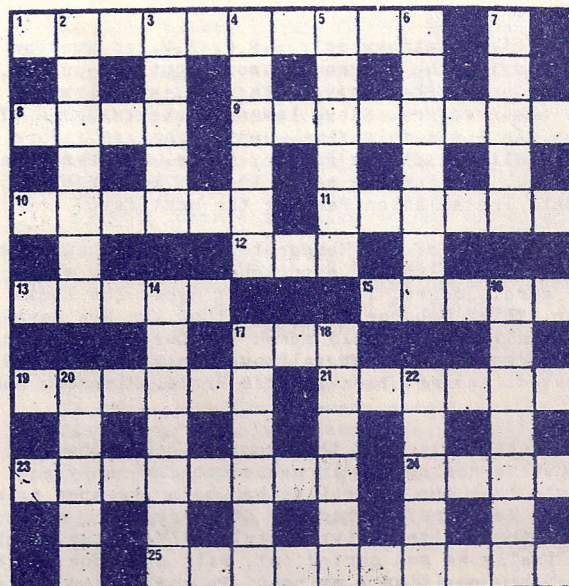
From the Coronati Lodge Book of Transactions for Year, 1969.

We are indebted to the Masonic Record, April, 1973, for the following verses, which have appeared in various Masonic journals throughout the world, including, Canada, New Zealand and Japan.

THE THOUGHTS OF MRS. MASON

Many years have hurried past since first he joined the craft.
I used to help with stiff-front shirts and know that I was daft
To crawl about on hands and knees to find the stud he's lost,
He could have bought some extra ones for very little cost.
I like to lay out all his clothes and little white bow ties;
The dinner suit was 'hand me down' and not quite right for size.
We realised that frequently he had just one black sock,
This, of all my shortcomings, would make him do his block.
The time involved in putting on the full Masonic Dress
Was fraught with great frustration and constant mounting stress,
For also with the dressing was a frantic final look,
At certain of the pages in the secret ritual book.
Then came the day when tails are bought to mark promotions climb,
I warmed with pride as off he went - that special man of mine.
Next come a spate of going out to one Lodge or another,
He hardly spent a night at home, my Worshipful, the Brother.
I watched a special talent grow, a new commanding air
Of dignity and confidence, as Master in the Chair.
My memory of that time is tinged with one distinctive sight;
The rear view of his flapping tails - my penguin in full flight.
Quite suddenly the visits stopped, the frantic rush was spent;
A mellow phase had introduced a mood of rich content.
I'm glad that I'm a Mason's wife. I do support his aims,
I tolerate the system and appreciate the claims.
But many of the mysteries that in the Craft abound,
The one that stands above the rest as far the most profound;
Is why Masonic visiting is such a great success
While any outing I arrange seems only to depress.
All I can get is lounge suit and a sad submissive smile,
When I get out my loveliest and try to put on style.
But if it were the 'Regular', with thoughts of friendship clasp,
Reluctance is forgotten in the true Masonic grasp.
He'll don his tails and wear a look of sober concentration,
While deep within his being stirs the loyal exultation.
I'm proud to be a Mason's wife,
I'm proud to be a mother,
And later, once our son has joined, he'll be my husband's Brother!
And then I hope they'll both go off in fellowship fraternal
To moralise and square their lives on Gods own word eternal.

NAMES OF LODGES - From the earliest development of the purely speculative element, our Lodges have been known by various names, though principally for a long period by that of the "place of entertainment" where they met. Down to 1738 that is undoubtedly so, as there is only one Lodge in the lists not called by the house or sign where they assembled, and this is "Stewards Lodge". Towards the middle and end of the 18th century, the Lodges began to assume the names of the virtues, graces, the muses and of persons. As far as is known, the operative Lodges were really guilds, probably with a patron saint. We shall not be wrong in saying, then, that our present system of Lodge nomenclature does not date beyond the end on the 18th century or early 19th century.



8. Lulu keeps this man hidden. (4)
9. Gran partly liked this royal play. (4,4).
10. Boiling with anger? Not quite. (6).
11. The room Lulu half ornately decorated. (6).
12. Three points to stitch. (3)
13. Not likely to be an ordinary feast. (5).
15. Was Kes an 'orrible little chap? (5)
17. Duke of York's 10,000. (3).
19. Great Guns! (6).
21. No peer can start without one. (6).
23. Nearly gained a bit by discussion. (8).
24. Silly drug? (4).
25. Another stage robber. (4,6).

DOWN

2. Growing cast of animals. (7).
3. Gassy water. (5).
4. Practical and 2 in a pack. (6).
5. Half a minute now small fry! (6).
6. Wouldn't be pleased to be thought of as a single scot. (7).
7. Yankee talk. (5).
14. Bill, unsettled. (3,4).
16. Hide a pal in the theatre. (7).
17. Raver in a mac. (6).
18. Sweet meat. (6).
20. Friendless person. (5)
22. Bed down? (5).

R.J.H.

SOLUTION TO LAST ISSUE

Across. 1. Caravan. 5. Snort. 8. Eon. 9. Revolts. 10. Oxeye. 11. Vera. 12. Lapland. 14. Mowing. 16. Maplin. 19. Liaison. 21. Vole. 24. Ingle. 25. Ennoble. 26. Dor. 27. Needy. 28. Trebles.
Down. 1. Core. 2. Revie. 3. Villain. 4. Nestle. 5. Snoop. 6. Overall. 7. Treading. 13. Emulsion. 15. Wrangle. 17. Advance. 18. Insert. 20. Seedy. 22. Lable. 23. Legs.

JUST A SMILE

A smile costs nothing, but gives so much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. No one is so rich and mighty that he can get along without it, and no one is so poor that he cannot be made rich by it. A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet, it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, as it is something that is of no value until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give a smile. Give them one of yours, as no one needs a smile so much as he who has none to give.

Oklahoma Mason.

(Extract from Grand Lodge Bulletin, Lodge of Iowa, April, 1975.)