



No. 18

MAY, 1977

THANK YOU

A great deal of work has gone into the preparations for this, our fifth Viking Night, and the thanks of all the brethren go to all those who have given of their time and effort, but especially we give our thanks to the Temple Staff, namely W. Bro. Scott, Bob (the Chef), Barbara and all the other members of the staff.

LODGE OF INSTRUCTION NIGHT AT THE TEMPLE

On Friday, 1st April, the members of the Lodge of Instruction, a few guests and fewer still senior members of Canute Lodge, attended the Temple, where an Initiation Ceremony was fully rehearsed.

Bro. Ray Leonard-Brown occupied the Chair on this occasion and he is to be congratulated on his work, as are all the other brethren who so ably performed the duties of the other offices.

After Closing the Lodge, all adjourned to the Regency Room, where a special buffet had been laid on. A raffle was held, the proceeds of which were gratefully accepted by Bro. Easlea, the Lodge Charity Representative.

This really was a most enjoyable evening and what a pity that more of the senior members of the Lodge were not there to give their support to the future officers of their Lodge, even if only to be assured that the Lodge will be passing into capable hands in the years to come. Please give it your serious consideration next year, and give your encouragement to the Junior members who look to you for assistance and guidance.

THE MARCH MEETING

The 337th Regular Meeting of Canute Lodge took place on Saturday, 12th March, 1977, and it was notable for one or two special reasons at least.

First, it was the Worshipful Master's sad duty to call the brethren to stand for a silent tribute to Bro. Leslie Barber, our Senior Warden, who died so suddenly on 1st February, 1977. The Master first addressed the brethren, informing them of Bro. Leslie's past regarding the Lodge. There is no doubt he will be sadly missed, and our sympathy goes out to his widow and son in their sad loss.

The meeting continued with the Passing of Bro. John Cockett. This ceremony was performed by our Worshipful Master who well and truly maintained the high standard that is now expected at our meetings, as did all the other officers, especially W. Bro. Butterfield, who filled the S.Ws. Chair.

During the ceremony there was a report, and W. Bro. Frank Perry was admitted. He seemed a little confused as he immediately saluted the Senior Warden, which just goes

to show one can still make slight errors after many years in the Craft. By the way W. Bro. Frank, where did you get that apron?

Perhaps the highlight of the whole evening was the performance of W. Bro. Angus Grant, who Initiated Bro. Eric Fiford, who we welcome most wholeheartedly into the Lodge. It was a sight that gladdened the hearts of all present to see W. Bro. Grant back in the Chair and performing the ceremony with all his old skill.

Bro. Edgar Easlea was appointed Charity Representative and we wish him success in this office and hope he receives as much support as was afforded Bro. Leslie Barber.

The Festive Board rounded off a perfect evening and there is no doubt everyone went home well satisfied.

ALMONERS REPORT

For those of you who do not know, I have to report that Wo. Bro. Bert George was taken suddenly ill on 31st March, 1977, and was admitted to Rochford Hospital. I am pleased to inform you that he is making good progress, and we trust it will not be long before he is able to be among us again.

I visited Bro. John MacIntosh recently and I found him to be fairly cheerful in spite of his long illness. Our thoughts are with you Bro. John and W. Bro. Bert, especially on this, the Viking Night.

I shall be holding the usual raffle this evening, and the proceeds will go to support our widows fund as usual. Your generous support is requested, and I know I can reply on you. If you could see the looks of thanks at being remembered when we deliver their Christmas food parcels, I'm sure you would buy at least twice as many tickets.

Almoner.

WX NXXD YOUR HXLP

My typxwritxr works quitx wxll xxcxpt for onx kxy. Somxtimxs it sxxms to mx that a good fxw of our mxmbxrs arx likx my typxwritxr - not all thx kxys arx working propxrlx. You may say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I am only onx pxrson; it won't makx much diffxrxncx." But you sxx, for thx lodgx to bx xffxctivx, it nxxds thx activx participation of vxvxy mxmbxr.

So thx nxxt timx you think your xffort is not nxxdxd, rxmxxbxx my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I am a kxy pxrson and my xfforts arx nxxdxd vxry much."

Can wx plxasx havx a litxrary contribution from your good sxlf for thx futurx issuxs of thx "TIDx".

R.J.H.

THE LADIES FESTIVAL

On Friday, 25th March, about 116 brethren and their wives attended the Ladies Festival at Lindisfarne Social Centre, Westcliff-on-Sea. Although not as well supported as in previous years, this was as always a night to remember.

W. Bro. Don Watkins and his lovely Lady, Peggy, greeted all their guests in the traditional manner, and whilst awaiting the arrival of everyone, sherry was served. This was followed by a very enjoyable meal.

Bro. Bob Dillon proposed the toast to the Ladies and Mrs. Wright responded on behalf of the Ladies. W. Bro. Sam Pollard fulfilled the pleasant commission on behalf of the Lodge, and presented Mrs. Watkins with a gold watch, for which she suitably thanked the brethren.

The toast to the President was proposed by W. Bro. Geoff Bond and after the response by W. Bro. Don Watkins the floor was cleared for the dancing to the Starliners.

The whole evening went far too quickly, and it seemed no time at all before the whole gathering joined in for Auld Lang Syne.

A most pleasant evening and what a shame so many missed it.

THE EXECUTION

In my short life this was a subject that had never really worried me. After all with the vote having gone against capital punishment and the general discourse by the 'do gooders' being wholly against it, it was hardly likely that I would ever be involved. In my own circle of friends the subject was never discussed, not that anybody had ever said it was taboo, it was just one of those unwritten laws where you know the subject would be distasteful and would cause much unhappiness to those you had come to love and respect.

Now suddenly fate had played her trump card, the opportunity presented itself for a grandstand view of an execution. Now the soul searching must start. All that I had previously heard, both for and against, flashed through my mind. Who could I talk it over with? No-one readily came to mind. How could fate be so despicable, how could she play such greusome trick, and so upset the daily ordered existence of my world. Nothing for it the decision would have to be mine alone, but how was I ever going to be able to live with my conscience again.

Eventually I took the easy way out; I would go, but I could always close my eyes at the moment of truth and thereby be spared those final agonising moments. Little did I realise how impossible it would be. How the tense and compelling atmosphere would completely take me over; to close my eyes had become out of the question. I could only despise myself for my ghoulish intent.

The stage was set, the room was clinically quiet the lighting very subdued. Furtively glancing round I could see several seats were empty, doubtless held for the usual important dignitaries who invariably arrive late. I could see the execution block quite clearly now that my eyes had become accustomed to the light; a lonely and forlorn spot, a timeless space. What did the condemned one think? Did he know what was happening? Would he make it to the block on his own, or would he need assistance? These were some of the questions that flashed through my mind as I sat comfortably.

Suddenly there is a movement over on the far side of the room. The condemned one has entered - how alone and pathetic he looks. He hesitates, glancing quickly round. Will he speak or shout out against the foul deed about to be perpetrated against him. He remains silent. Suddenly his courage asserts itself and he starts forward. His gait steady, his steps slow at first and then almost at a run. He pauses as he reaches the block, glances round once more his eyes bright with expectancy. A deathly hush has descended over the room. I hold my breath as the condemned bends forward and reaches his neck towards the block.

Quickly he darts for the cheese, equally suddenly the arm of the trap comes over with a deafening crack. It is all over - one very dead mouse. Hurried-

ly I make for my Master and Mistresses bedroom, that frightening noise still ringing in my ears. Oh well! such is a dog's life.

F.P.E.

CANUTE LODGE'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

This year 1977, Canute Lodge celebrated its Golden Jubilee, having been consecrated on 21st January, 1927. I am not, of course, referring to No. 3104, but to No. 4876, whose Golden Jubilee Installation Meeting was held on 14th January, 1977, at the Masonic Hall, Southampton. The Worshipful Master and Secretary of Canute Lodge 3104 were delighted to be guests at this meeting, which was honoured by the presence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, V.W. Bro. P.H. R. Evans, P.G. Supt. Wks., when W. Bro. Dave Nicholls was installed in a most sincere and impressive manner.

The highlight of a most enjoyable Festive Board was no doubt, a cake beautifully iced and decorated in the form of a Master Mason's apron, as well as another equally well decorated

The highlight of a most enjoyable Festive Board was no doubt, a cake, beautifully iced and decorated in the form of a Master Mason's apron, as well as another, equally well decorated and suitably inscribed cake to commemorate the occasion. Given the opportunity to reply to the toast to the guests, your Master was most pleased to be able to tender 3104's fraternal greetings, congratulations and best wishes for the future to the Master and Brethren of 4876.

Whilst the Brethren of the Southend party were enjoying the meeting, their ladies were being equally well entertained to dinner at the Albany Hotel, where they were accommodated by several ladies of the Southampton Lodge, and I am assured that a most delightful time was had by all.

On the Saturday, we had the pleasure of refreshments and lunch at Kings Court, a Masonic centre at Chandlers Ford.

To celebrate the Jubilee, a cocktail party was held that evening in the Albany Hotel, which was attended by many of the Brethren and their Ladies, and once again a most pleasant time was enjoyed by all those present.

The hospitality of Canute Lodge No. 4876 knew no bounds, and thanks are due to all its members, especially the Worshipful Master, the Secretary W. Bro. Sid Rainey, the Treasurer W. Bro. Bill Nash, the D.C., W. Bro. Edwards and W. Bro. Hector Buckle the oldest member (in time with the Lodge I must add, because he is very young in spirit) and all their ladies for the wonderful weekend they gave to the visiting guests from Southend.

W.M.

I of I VISIT TO LODGE No. 6755

On Saturday 12th February, 1977, I, together with almost the whole of Canute Lodge of Instruction, journeyed to London where we attended the Border Stone Lodge, No. 6755, to witness the Installation of the now W. Bro. Stephen (to all of us Stanley) Davidson.

W. Bro. Stan has been a member of our Lodge of Instruction for many years now, and many of us have witnessed his progress in learning the ritual and his determination to attain a high standard.

The ceremony we witnessed was performed to a high degree of competence and was as sincere as anyone could wish to see.

After being installed W. Bro. Stan took command of his Lodge as though he had been sitting in 'the chair' all his life, and it was plain for all to see that Border Stone have a Master in whom they can be justly proud.

We of Canute were especially proud of his performance, and would like to think we played some part in his success, and if any reward was due it was amply paid to see him so installed.

Congratulations W. Bro. Stan, we wish you every success and happiness in your year of office.

R.J. H.

SOUTHEND MASONIC WELFARE TRUST.

The SMWT Masonic Ball was held at the Cliffs Pavilion on Friday, 4th March, 1977. Dancing was to the Roy Howard Band assisted by Take Four. A continuous Buffet ran from 7.30 to 11.30;

The event realised just over £800 for the Trust and many thanks are due to Canute Bros. Cackett, Burrows, Jones, Bolton and Ellis who, together with their Ladies did so much to ensure the success of the evening.

It is with pleasure that we report that Bro. Edgar Easlea of Canute Lodge has taken over from W. Bro. Guy Jerman as Secretary of the Trust.

W. Bro. Jerman, who became Secretary when the Trust was formed deserves the thanks of all Essex masons. His unceasing efforts on behalf of the Trust are much to be admired. W. Bro. Guy relinquishes the post to take up his new appointment as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. We wish him well.

SOUTHEND MASONIC TEMPLE CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR WIDOWS

After a few enquiries I found that Mrs Florrie Pickstone was to be our Lady for 1976. Florrie has been in Southend for fifty years, coming from just north of Manchester in 1928, with her husband, Bro Harry Pickstone (Canute 1938-66) who taught at Southend High School for Boys for around thirty years or more.

On Wednesday 15th December, I collected Florrie, and we arrived at the Temple on the stroke of 1215 hrs, in time for the Cocktails or Sherries. Even so we were not the first to arrive as there were already about thirty in the Regency Room of the Temple. At 1330 hrs the ladies were taken down to the Dining Room, which was decorated in Yuletide fashion with two Christmas trees with fairy lights, crackers on the table, and Tony Crompton - W.M. Hamlet Court Lodge - dispensing the music, which he continued until 1530 hrs, on the piano-accordion.

Fancy hats emerging from the crackers and finding their way on to the heads of the ladies, the scene was set for -

Melon

Cream of Mushroom Soup

Turbot Excellence

Sorbet

Roast Sirloin of Beef,
Yorkshire Pudding,
Runner Beans,
Roast and Creamed Potatoes

Christmas Pudding,
Brandy Sauce

Cheese, Biscuits, Coffee

Wines - Red and White

Liqueurs

I observed all this from the downstairs Bar, and at 1430 hrs I could hear the faint sound of singing voices, as Tony struck up "Somewhere my Love". Twenty minutes later, as the sound grew louder, he broke into seasonal songs, beginning I recall with "Winter Wonderland". The Christmas Puddings came with sparklers in them, all lit and making a delightful scene.

Brethren, should you be invited to "chip in" for our widows, please do so with generosity, the results are SO VERY WORTHWHILE, and W. Bro Frank Kerry, Mrs Florrie Pickstone was a most charming, and gracious seventy-two year old - just gorgeous.

PERMANENT GUEST'S REPORT

I was invited to attend St Margaret's Lodge on Wednesday 1st December, and I noted Bro Chum Mimpres among the 55 who witnessed the first half raising of Brian Meddle. Morrie attended with his son-in-law on a visit from New Zealand, who told me that in 28 years of Masonry he had never met a more sincere Lodge; it really is just that.

When I first saw the Summons it had eighteen items on the Agenda, and needless to say I thought the worst, although the meeting began at 3 pm.

The second half was a passing, Bro M Jardine, whom I saw initiated at the previous meeting, the ceremonies in this Lodge go 1-2-3 through three meetings, more or less. Numbers had now grown to seventy.

Two joining members were ballotted for, and another was read out for future ballotting. They were all from Jeanne d'Arc Lodge, No 4168, and the Master said "We are not attempting a take-over".

One item new to me, on the Agenda, was "That this Lodge should sponsor the formation of the Alexandra Maritime Lodge". Four Petitioners were present, and they stood up "to be recognised", and then the petition was signed by the W.M. and both wardens at their respective seats.

I was invited to the Christmas Meeting of the Lodge of Instruction at the Crooked Billet - I'll write about that later on. In the meantime I'll attempt to gather a couple more of "Canute's". At a normal meeting, the L of I numbers about 24.

The Charity Box raised nearly £30 in the Lodge, and the raffle at the Festive Board made £71 for the Widows Fund. The meeting ended with carol singing, and thus can be truly said to have closed in harmony.

Saturday 4th December 1976 was the occasion of Prittlewell 'Old English Night'. It really did surpass itself this year, and I feel sure that the 165 Brethren, including our own Bill Kent and "Chum" Mimpres, thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The degree worked was a double-passing, and the meeting began at 4 pm. We emerged about 6.30 and sat down to dine about 8 pm.

I arrived early and thus acquired a seat near to the Secretary's table, whence I could observe. As I had a little time I wandered out to speak with our Chef, Bob. He had already dined Chalkwell Chapter, forty Brethren, and had St Clement's Chapter, also forty Brethren, together with Prittlewell. He really did have a very busy day.

My memory of the meeting, and my apologies to W.M. Aubrey Parfitt who did excellent work, must be of W. Bro Jack Upton's music on the occasion of eighteen Stewards leaving the meeting early. He chose to play "The Policeman's Holiday", and the Brethren stamped their feet in correct tempo, whilst the Stewards kept step disappearing through the door. Also, Jack presented Grand Lodge Certificates to three Brethren, whom I am certain were most impressed.

In previous 'Tides' mention has been made of this meeting, so for this article I can say it was up to the usual standard. Clay pipes, loose tobacco, were on the tables. The meal was gorgeous, and even I could not have eaten more.

MEMORIES

Memories are a series of peaks, unknowingly collected and stored in the library of our mind. They may be pleasant or unpleasant, but nature has a way of mellowing or discarding the latter, and we are usually left with those we choose to remember.

They are collected by one or more of our five senses; sight, smell, hearing, touch or taste. Whether we realise it or not, these are our only recognised contacts with things around us.

Your recollection may be that of a flower, face, voice, fabric or flavour, and if you sit back and relax these pleasantries will slip through your minds-eye and conjure such remarkable marvels for you, that you regret not having taken more notice of them in reality.

A flower, yes the little sweet pea type bloom on the stem of a blade of grass, the botanical name is, I believe, grass vetchling, or Lathyrus nissolia. We used to call them Cinderella grass - the delicate mauve-pink bloom hanging on a proud erect stem, blushing, I am sure, at its own beauty and swaying gently in the warm summer afternoon.

They were in the small field opposite the house in which I was born. There were thousands of them, hiding shyly among their brother grasses and other wild flowers. Remembering now the sound of silence, broken only by the rustle of the breeze, the buzz of the honey bee, the tremulous song of the lark ascending on spirals of warm air, the clomp of horses hooves, the lowing of the cattle and the bleating of sheep, all distant, pleasant and so gently peaceful.

Memories of the days of my early years spent in that field, letting life pass gently by, seeing, hearing, smelling, touching and tasting the joys of nature, not realising the wonders that they are. How lightly we treat the heritage which is ours.

CANUTE LODGE 3104 MEETINGS

The 72nd Installation Meeting of Canute Lodge No. 3104, held at Freemasons Hall, Woodgrange Drive, South-end on Sea, on Saturday, 27th November, 1976, was another triumph for the officers and past masters of the Lodge, as once again they proved the working of Canute is second to none.

The principal participants at the meeting, namely W. Bro. Geoff Bond, the Installing Master, and Master Elect, W. Bro. Don Watkins, both gave their all, and their efforts were greatly admired and appreciated by all present.

Our congratulations to you both, and may you, W. Bro. Don, have a truly wonderful year.

On Saturday, 8th January, 1977, the 336th Regular Meeting of Canute Lodge was held at the usual venue.

This was W. Bro. Don Watkins' first full meeting as Master, and he shew us just what a good ritualist he is, with the most sincere and almost word perfect initiation of Bro. (Young Bill) Kent, to whom we extend a warm welcome to the craft.

Far be it from me to be critical, and it is so easy to be so from the safety of the Stewards Bench, but it was noticeable that some of the work of the other officers was not quite (and I do mean not quite) up to the usual high standard invariably executed in Canute Lodge. No doubt much of this can be attributed to 'first time' nerves. However sincerity is the main thing and this was much in evidence throughout.

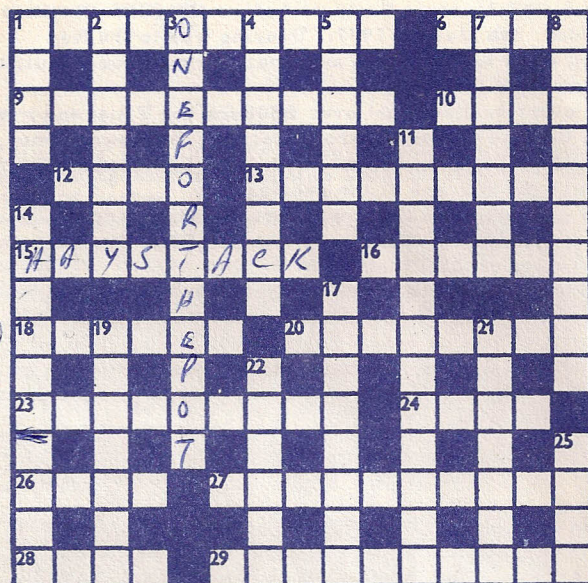
Especial congratulations to W. Bro. Ted Cornwell, who so ably performed the raising of Bro. Mudie.

The Festive Boards at both these meetings were of the usual high standard, and both meetings gave much pleasure to everyone present.

R.J.H.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

In undeveloped countries it isn't safe to drink the water. In developed countries it isn't safe to breathe the air.



SOLUTION TO X-WORD IN LAST EDITION

ACROSS: 1. Parallel bars. 10. Western. 11. Top gear. 12. Eastern. 13. Phantom. 14. Noses. 15, 17. Right from the word go. 20. Capon. 22. Impales. 24. Endures. 25. Garbage. 26. Quinine. 27. Reserved seat. DOWN: 2. Assists. 3. Ageless. 4. Leningrad. 5. Let up. 6. Asphalt. 7. Sweater. 8. Sweet nothings. 9. Prime Minister. 16. Grotesque. 18. Emperor. 19. Orleans. 20. Caddies. 21. Perdita. 23. Steer.

ACROSS

1. Part time occupations perhaps. (4,2,4).
6. It turns, giving gratuitous information. (4).
9. Show me, Nora. (Anag.) (10).
10. Not a single German. (4).
12. A good sign. (4).
13. Used on stages and cars, but not much use in fog. (9)
15. The last place you would look for a needle. (8).
16. Wherein the coming of Christ is celebrated. (6).
18. Fox follower. (6).
20. Lawful pursuer of 1 down. (5-3).
23. Kind of work one is secretly on the lookout for. (9)
24. Part of the Czech capital going hot and cold. (4)
26. Gore-splashed monster. (4).
27. Union planner who makes light of his or her job. (10)
28. Scottish 19. (4).
29. Instrumental in providing openings. (6-4).

DOWN

1. Reckless road hog. (4)
2. N. African territory sounding like sheep country. (7)
3. Victim of the cannibals tea party? (3,3,3,3).
4. Soft seat for the Lord Chancellor. (8).
5. Excuse for a snore. (6).
7. Moon's nearest point. (7).
8. Composer devoted to his work? (4,2,4).
11. Travelling ice-breaker? (12).
14. Source from which bankers get their orders. (6-4).
17. Taken on the chin. (8).
19. Something to wear. (7)
21. Throw over the French? Rather amusing. (7).
22. Prohibit an article that's fruity. (6).
25. Girl in the public eye. (4).

WOMEN'S LIB

A college English professor wrote the words "Woman without her man is a savage" on the board, directing the students to punctuate it correctly. He found the men looked at it one way, the women another. The men wrote, "Woman without her man, is a savage". The women wrote, "Woman! Without her, man is a savage".

Hmmm.

R.J.H.