

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



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Volume 7, Number 10
December 2009



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FROM THE EAST

I can't believe it is time to write the December newsletter article.

This year just seems to have flown by.

Looking back on 2009 and comparing it to 2004 is inevitable for me. Both of my years in the East are similar in the fact that the Officers in the line are all motivated to doing what is best for the Lodge. Both years the Master and the Line worked together as a team and that is as it should be. One person alone can't do it all.

This time around was not as life changing as in 2004. That is not to diminish what I have learned about myself this year as opposed to last time. It just isn't as dramatic a change. Back in 2004 leading a tradition filled organization (actually, leading any kind of organization) was completely new to me. This time I had a much better idea of what to expect as I made the walk to the Oriental Chair in the East last January. I don't think I forgot my hat once...

The support from the Brethren and especially the Past Masters was fantastic both times. There seem to be a few more Past Masters active in Lodge now then back on 04 which is also a good thing. In 2009 there were some different issues then were faced back in 2004. In 04 the Grand Lodge was still renting space in the building and the economy was going strong. This time there were budget issues with the building that had to be addressed and although they were a bit painful they did get addressed. There were other issues in the first part of the year as well and they too were addressed.

One thing that has greatly improved over the past years is the fact that the Lodge is much better now at getting our new members involved in Lodge activities. Membership in Ancient Landmark 5 is strong. We have always done a good job of getting new members

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FROM THE WEST

Finishing Up the Year

As those of you in attendance know, our Second Degree Ceremony went very well. As I mentioned before, our Third Degree Ceremony will be hosted by our Masters and Wardens Group, and the Grand Master of Minnesota will be presiding. This will be held on Saturday, December 12th. It would be well worth your while to be in attendance at this important event.

Moreover, we will have held our November stated meeting at the James J. Hill House by the time you read this article. As I am writing, I am aware that a large number of Brothers and their ladies have made reservations. This should ensure that a wonderful time will have been had by all.

Also quite important is our December Stated Meeting scheduled for December 10th. We will elect our officers for 2010. It is very important that you be in attendance at this event to show your support for our Lodge and the Brothers who will be your future leaders. I can assure you that all of your officers want to continue the excellent traditions of this lodge—beautiful and meaningful rituals, engaging LEO presentations, and, last but not least, wonderful fellowship shared among our Brothers and their ladies.

It has been an honor to serve you as your Senior Warden this year. I appreciate very much your attendance at our meetings and other gatherings as well as the support that many of you have given me this year.

See you in Lodge!

Allan Floyd
Senior Warden



From the East...continued from page 1

through the Degrees. Now, we do a much better job of keeping those new members motivated. The credit for that goes to the Brethren of the Lodge. When active members sign the petitions of prospective new members and those new members see how the Lodge works together, that shows them that they are joining a vital and active organization. When I look over the Lodge I see many familiar faces and also many of the new faces and that makes me feel that we have done our job as leaders.

Being Master of Ancient Landmark 5 is a very rewarding way to spend a year. Thank you for the opportunity to serve again.

I hope you have a great holiday season

We'll see you Lodge
Loren Davis



Open Installation of Officers for 2010

No Brother, elected or appointed to Office, in a Chartered Lodge can enter upon the discharge of his duties until installed. The Installation of Officers for 2010 takes place on Saturday January 9, 2010 at the Lodge. The Installation Ceremony is open to all Members, their significant others and guests.

The festivities get underway with hors d'oeuvres served at 3:00 pm. The Installation Ceremony begins at 3:30 and cake and coffee will be served immediately following the Installation.

There is no charge for the Installation, but we do need to know how many are attending. Please RSVP to RSVP@ancientlandmark5.com, or call the Lodge at 651-222-2643

Officers being installed should wear tuxedos or dark suit.



NEXT STATED MEETING

December 10th



Barnes A. Sharitt Jr.

*This is the continuation of last months article **The Lodge Master.** by Andrew MacBride, P.M. Lodge Progress No. 873 Glasgow, Scotland*

There are certain points essential to the making of a good Master of a Lodge, and these are:

- 1 - Upright Character** (In last months newsletter)
- 2 - Sound Judgment**
- 3 - Knowledge of Masonry**
- 4 - Mental Ability**

2 SOUND JUDGMENT

Judgment is that faculty of the mind that can properly estimate the value of things. It gives true perspective to our views and just consistency to our actions. It maintains our balance in life, directs our aspirations, and decides our course. When it is sound - that is, healthy and strong - we have wisdom. Uprightness of character without Sound Judgment may sow seed on stony places, cast pearls before swine, and lose battles gathering straws. Sound Judgment will lose a sprat to catch a whale, will suffer present loss for future gain and will boldly sacrifice the lesser for greater life. The Judgment is not sound that listens to desire more than to conscience, that is influenced by gain rather than by honour, and has no faith in the ultimate and eternal triumph of truth and right.

The exercise of Sound Judgment by a Master has an immense influence on the well-being of his Lodge and on his personal peace of mind and happiness in the Chair. An unjust or imprudent decision will strip him of that moral authority without which no master can efficiently rule. Sometimes an unfair decision may be given in haste, and without any intention of being unfair. Smartness is often mistaken for ability and the desire to appear smart may lead to serious mistakes. It is better to be slow and sure than hasty in Judgment. "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread", and the small mind is the most apt to damn the consequences of its decisions. Careful consideration should always precede a Judgment delivered from the Chair. Where the subject is one with which the mind is familiar, through knowledge and experience, a prompt decision is an advantage. But, as a rule, careful consideration

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Ancient Landmark #5 2010 Calendar

December 2009

17th Officers Meeting/Open/Close,
voting rehearsal

January 2010

9th Officer Installation
14th Stated Meeting-

February 2010

4th Officers Meeting
11th Stated Meeting
13th Sweethearts Dinner
Lexington

March 2010

4th Officers Meeting
11th Stated Meeting
18th Floor rehearsal
25th First Degree

April 2010

1st Officers Meeting
8th Stated Meeting
15th Floor rehearsal
17th BUNCO
22rd Second Degree

May 2010

6th Officers Meeting
13th Stated Meeting
Ladies Night
27th Floor rehearsal

June 2010 (next column)

3th Officers Meeting
5th Third Degree

June 2010 (continued)

10th Stated Meeting
Saints Game

July 2010

Dark
Ron Larson BBQ

August 2010

Dark
Golf Tournament

Sept 2010

2rd Officers Meeting
9th Stated Meeting
16th Floor rehearsal
23th 1st Degree

Oct 2010

7st Officers Meeting
14th Stated Meeting
Awards Night
16th BUNCO
21st Floor rehearsal
28th 2nd Degree

Nov 2010

4th Officers Meeting
11th Stated Meeting
Ladies Night

Dec 2010

2rd Officers Meeting,
Floor Rehearsal
4th 3rd Degree
9th Stated Meeting

LEO, The Lodge Master...continued from page 2

gives thorough knowledge, and thorough knowledge does not often run with hasty judgment.

The Master who has Sound Judgment is distinguished by Prudence, Proficiency and Progress. His prudence is shown in what he does, and more in what he does not do. His desires, even when most laudable, he circumscribes within the compass of his power, and he measures his power by the desires of his Lodge. His proficiency is manifested by making the heaviest work appear light and pleasant, and the lightest full of weight and meaning. His progress is rapid, because his steps are slow and sure, because he measures his speed by progression and not by motion. He is not the fluttering barn-fowl full of furious motion, but the soaring eagle, whose almost motionless pinions carry him swiftly upwards and onwards.

3 . KNOWLEDGE OF MASONRY

There is a kind of knowledge of degrees and ceremonies gained by having gone through them. But this kind is more an exercise of the purse than of the brain, and scarcely deserves the name of knowledge. You may go through all the degrees up to the thirty-third, have a lorry load of Diplomas, and more jewels than your coat can carry, and yet be utterly ignorant of real masonry.

Your parchments may be nothing more than the hieroglyphic wrapping round an Egyptian mummy, and your jewels the ornaments of a stage puppet. There is also a kind of knowledge in being able to repeat the rituals and forms of the Order. This ability, however, does not imply any real knowledge of the truths and principles than underlie its symbols and ceremonies. A parrot may repeat the proverbs of Solomon and be none the wiser thereby.

True knowledge is the perception of the principles underlying anything; for instance, the craftsman who knows the laws that govern the art of building, the lines that give strength and stability, and those that give beauty to a fabric. This kind of knowledge is power. It makes a man a Master. It gives the power and planning and working to a given end and purpose. It enables the Captain to direct the ship, and gives him his right to the quarter deck. It enables the Master of a Lodge to plan his lodge work in perfect harmony with its Constitution and Mission, and to work out that plan successfully. The Master who has not this knowledge is the blind servant of red tape and mechanical routine. He is full of ignorant childish fears in his work, and the

more conscientious he is, the more fearful he will be. He must stick to every word and letter of what he has learned, for he knows merely the words and letters and not the spirit. He has no knowledge of how to take his bearings and shape his course by the sun and stars, and consequently he creeps along the shore, ever fearful of losing his course. He is not a Master of his craft, in the proper sense of the term. He is a slave to it, and knows it not.

4 MENTAL ABILITY

Strength and skill of mind form mental ability. It is distinguished from genius in being more the product of cultivation and development than of nature. Genius, like beauty, is a natural gift more than a development, although, like the diamond, it may owe much to art. It is also rare like the diamond, and comes not directly into the ordinary service of life. Ability is different. It is not uncommon and can be acquired. It can be developed just as strength and skill of body. The aspiring Master, therefore, should regularly exercise his mind by a serious study of the symbols and history of the craft and the ceremonies of the several degrees. This exercise can be beneficial, should be regular and not spasmodic. It should also be systematic, beginning at the work of initiation and proceeding on step by step. Each point and symbol should be studied in its relation to the special truth and principle it teaches, also in its connection and harmony generally with the ceremony or proceeding of which it forms a part. By this regular and systematic exercise the mental faculties will be strengthened and developed, and skill in the craft attained.

But the Master should not only have the mental ability to understand the craft of Masonry, he should also have the ability of giving expression to his thoughts and ideas in suitable and correct language. Nothing tends more to lower the dignity of the Chair and lessen the Master's authority than stumbling uncouth utterances. It often offends the feelings and convictions of the listeners, as well as their sense of good taste, even when kindly meant.

In any dispute he is apt to add fuel to the flame, even when he means to be perfectly fair. A few well-chosen words, on the other hand, will generally restrain ill feeling, and direct the debate into a channel leading to a harmonious conclusion. It is, therefore, of importance that a Master should possess the mental ability to speak freely, as well as to think clearly, and to that end the

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LEO, The Lodge Master...continued from page 4

aspirant should study and practise the art of expressing his thoughts in words fitted to the occasion.

While the Master ought to be thus able, he should in any debate speak as seldom and as shortly as possible. This is a point that ought to receive the careful consideration of every Master, particularly those who think they have "the gift o' the gab". In this, as in most things it is quality and not quantity that tells; for clear expression lies more in the selection than in the volume of words, and that art can only be obtained by study and practice.

Through the endeavour to formulate our thoughts in words we obtain a clearer view of them. When the architect tries to build and shape his ideas, he relishes their imperfections as well as their beauty. The conceptions of the artist are developed and perfected on the canvas,

The inventor's notion becomes plainer in his own mind as he works out his plan or his model; so our thoughts, somewhat vague as they arise in our minds, become more definite and distinct to our vision as we try to formulate and express them in words. We are told that at the beginning of creation "the earth was without form and void, and darkness moved on the face of the deep." Only when He had worked out His thought in substance and form "God saw everything that He had made, and behold it was very good."

By the effort to express our thoughts and clothe them in the form of words or actions, or matter, we not only benefit others, but also, and even more so, benefit ourselves. Thus, the giving of knowledge does not impoverish, it enriches the giver. The true Master who makes a careful study of the Symbols or Ceremonies of Masonry, and tries to give expression to the truths he finds therein, will find his ideas of them all the clearer, his mental ability all the stronger, and will realise in his experience that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Andrew MacBride was the second generation of Masonic Researchers and Historians.

His father, A. S. MacBride, is better known, due to his compilation of the Masonic Ritual, generally called the "MacBride Ritual."

Although compiled in 1870, the MacBride Ritual is still only used by a minority of what some call "the thinking Lodges". Certainly it eliminates much of what

causes criticism today. His work was not in favour with Grand Lodge in 1870, but it sometimes takes a little while for genius to be recognised, for his attitude to the Penalties, for example, is now more appreciated.

Born the son of a cooper in December 1843, at Renton, A. S. MacBride attended Dalmonach School, but was mostly self-educated. He was President of An Comunn Gaidhealach and 2nd President of the Scottish Football Association. Joined Freemasonry in July 1866, was Master in 1867, and between then and 1896 was Master of Leven St John Renton, for a period of 21 years. Was Master of Lodge Progress 873 in 1901, the year Andrew was initiated. Andrew was Master in 1914; he was always in the shadow of his more well-known Father, but was a very able and skilled Historian and Mason in his own right.

The quality of the man is apparent from the quality of the work you have just read.

[The Lodge Master is a handbook for Masters of Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand lodge of Scotland. Its full title is "The Lodge Master, his qualifications, Duties, Powers and Privileges". The first part 'qualifications' is reproduced here un-edited]

Ed. Note: Our most sincere appreciation to Robert L. D. Cooper, Curator, The Grand Lodge of Scotland Museum and Library for sending this handbook to SCRL. Bob Cooper is one of the most knowledgeable Masons in all of Freemasonry and a real friend of SCRL. As an author, his works are among the best available, and perhaps the best in the current era.



Published monthly except July and August by Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 5. Non subscription newsletter to members and friends.

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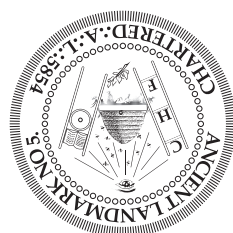


LODGE of SORROW 2009



And we shall become immortal by our deeds which will live on after us.

Name	Birth	Initiated	Passed	Raised	Celestial Lodge
Russell James Schwab	11/22/1924	1/09/1953	2/06/1953	2/20/1953	2/10/2009
Arnold Emery Johnson	11/10/1926			11/18/1954	2/22/2009
Ralph Peterson	Jan. 1925			Nov. 1967	3/20/2009
Elmer M. Jenson	8/9/1927			8/20/1960	6/27/2009
Wheeler, Ray E	4/4/1929			1/6/1955	7/28/2009
Wood, John J	4/21/1927			7/21/1953	6/1/2009



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