



Ashton News

MARCH 2002
Vol.8 No.1

NEWSLETTER of ASHTON LODGE No 218 of the UNITED GRAND LODGE OF QUEENSLAND

Lodge helps raise \$10,000 for the Leukaemia Foundation

The South Brisbane Masonic Fund Raising Committee is proud to announce that due to their efforts they were able to raise in excess of \$10,000 from the Christmas Raffle, and invites all to an Afternoon Tea at 2.30 pm on Sunday 24th February at the South Brisbane Masonic Centre, when a cheque will be presented to representatives of the Foundation.

This appeal is part of a promise made by the United Grand Lodge of Queensland to raise \$1.2 million as a contribution to the completion of the patient and family accommodation units (estimated to cost just over \$2 million) and expected to be ready for occupation in the middle of 2002.

The Townsville Freemasons Village is situated next to the Townsville Hospital,

and its benefits will spread far beyond the Townsville area.

The foundation stone for the Village was laid on 18th December, 2001 by Grand Master Alan Wright.

He made mention of the 10 aged care facilities throughout the state caring for well over 1000 residents.

In late 1980, \$2 million was raised to establish a Masonic Chair for Geriatric Medicine at the Queensland University Medical School.

A state-wide one day door knock was conducted in 1996 and resulted in a donation of \$400,000 being made to the Royal Children's Hospital.

The Christmas Raffle conducted by members of the South Brisbane Centre was an outstanding success, due mainly to hard work by a small group of dedicated brethren who gave up their time to "peddle" tickets to the public.

Among this elite

body, Ashton's secretary Ted Lowe played a prominent part.

Ted elected to take charge of the mobile trolley containing the prizes, and if no storage place was available at the shopping centre, took it home and delivered it back next morning.

He was also there to hand out the "float" money to the ticket sellers, and returned in the evening to collect the proceeds and bank it.

This approach was carried out by Ted every day for the four weeks that the raffle was conducted.

Thanks must also go to members Ted Ross and Len Norman who found the time and effort to sell tickets at each of the shopping centres.

Their endeavours have gained for Ashton the honour of being credited \$2000 towards its allocation to the Leukaemia Foundation Scheme, thereby entitling this Lodge to be listed on

a plaque at the Townsville premises.

This effort has well and truly laid the foundation for the Fundraising Committee's pledge to raise \$40,000.

All brethren and their ladies are invited to Afternoon Tea to witness the presentation of a cheque to representatives of the Foundation, which will be held on 24th February 2002 at the South Brisbane Masonic Centre, commencing 2.30 pm.

Participating Lodges

Victoria No 10

Fenwick No 68

Woolloongabba No 140

John F Shale No 250

General Glasgow No 267

Avondale No 32

Progress No 342

Newmarket/Kelvin Grove

Fellowship No 418

Ashton No 218.

GIANT BOOK - FEST

In an ongoing effort to reach the target of \$40,000, the South Brisbane Masonic Fund Raising Committee are organising a giant book sale.

To make this venture successful, the Committee are putting out a call for the brethren and their friends to make a donation of books and magazines which may be cluttering up their shelves and cupboards.

So, if you have that problem of having too many books or magazines around the house, or feel the need to become involved in raising

money for a worthwhile cause, donate what you can and at-

tend the book fest and stock up on new reading materials.

WANTED

SECOND-HAND BOOKS FOR CHARITY BOOK SALE

to be held in the

SOUTH BRISBANE MASONIC CENTRE

208 Vulture Street South Brisbane
20th - 21st APRIL 2002

we will collect your books
Please phone Rob on 32197577

A QUEENSLAND FREEMASONS PROJECT

March is PM's Night

The Lodge has asked that the Past Masters of the Lodge conduct a Third Degree at our March meeting.

Candidate for the night is to be Bro Ricky Beecroft.

The Masters Chair will be occupied by Harry Crane, with Ossie Ehm and Peter Casper as his Wardens.

Alan Kingston fills the office of Director of Ceremonies and Ted Ross as its Chaplain.

Len Norman and Alex Stevens take over the chairs of Deacon, with Doug Kantor as the Inner Guard.

Other Charges will be presented by Keith Herbert, Gordon Dougan, Ted Lowe and our newly affiliated Brother, Bert Phin.

This particular night has, over the years, been gratefully accepted by the Past Master of the Lodge.

It allows them to once again take an active part in the ceremony of the evenings proceedings.

Q: How many Masons does it take to unscrew a lightbulb?
A: It's a secret!

Q: How many Masons does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

A: Three. One to screw it in, one to read the minutes of the previous lightbulb replacement, and one to sit on the sidelines and complain about the way they USED to screw in lightbulbs.

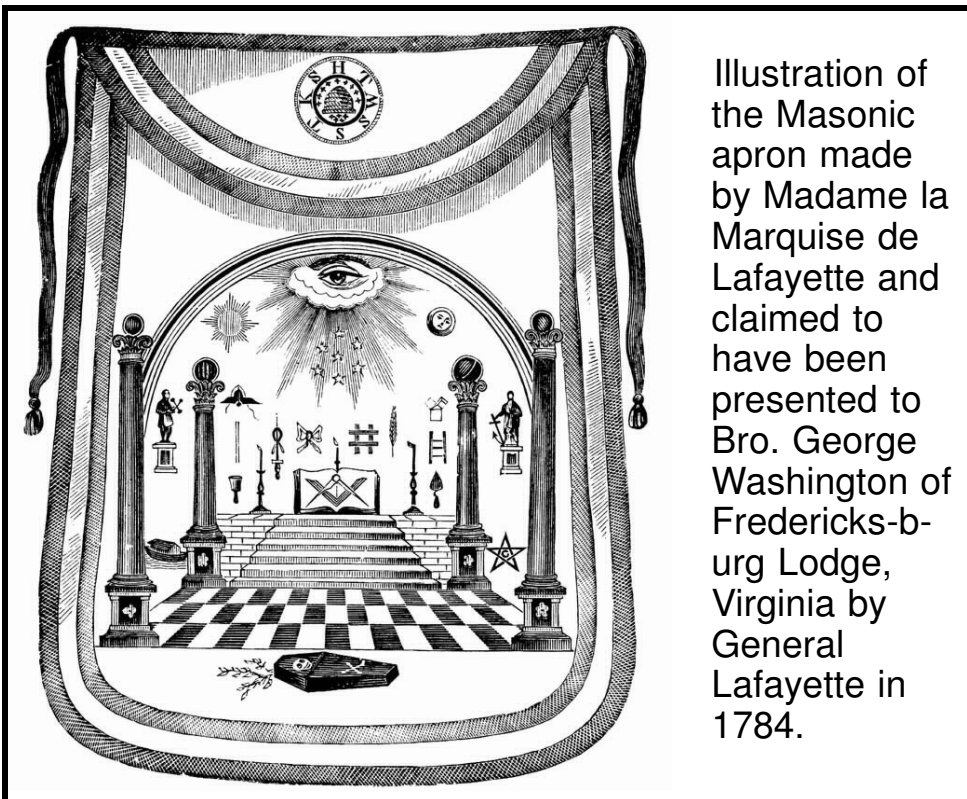


Illustration of the Masonic apron made by Madame la Marquise de Lafayette and claimed to have been presented to Bro. George Washington of Fredericksburg Lodge, Virginia by General Lafayette in 1784.

Homeward Bound

Word has just come through that our correspondent in England and Scotland, Ian Pieper is about to return home.

Over the last three years Ian has forwarded to "Ashton News" in-depth accounts of his visitations, along with his impressions of the workings and demeanor of various Masonic Lodges in the United Kingdom

We are looking forward to Ian once again rejoining his brethren in Lodge, and thank him for the entertaining articles he submitted whilst away for inclusion into our Newsletter.

Invitation to Brethren from Grand Master

The Grand Master, M W Bro A H Wright has extended an invitation to all members to attend an Open Forum in the Grand Hall Ann Street Brisbane commencing at 9.00 am sharp, concluding at 12 noon.

The forum has been convened to provide Brethren with an opportunity to express their views on the future direction of the Craft in this state and suggest items that will benefit the Craft as a whole.

A professional facilitator who is not a freemason will manage the meeting.

Members of the Board of General Purposes will be in attendance.

This is an important event in the history of freemasonry in this jurisdiction, which members should not miss.

Regalia is not required.

Dress is smart casual.

For seating arrangements, please telephone Mrs Dreina Baird on 3229 3533 no later than 28 February.

A Masonic Bloop

It was a humid, hot summer night in an Irish lodge in the Far East and the air-conditioner in the temple had broken down.

After sweating their way through part of the ritual, the WM addressed the new candidate, asking him what he most desired.

"A beer..." gasped the candidate.

"Light! light!" whispered the conductor frantically into his ear.

"Oh yes....", exclaimed the candidate. "A lite beer!"

Do you really have a problem ?

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following.

There would be:

57 Asians

21 Europeans

14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south

8 would be Africans

52 would be female 48 would be male

30 would be white

70 would be non-white

70 would be non-Christian

30 would be Christian

89 would be heterosexual 11 would be homosexual

6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the USA.

80 would live in substandard housing

70 would be unable to read

50 would suffer from malnutrition

1 would be near death

1 would be near birth

1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education

1 (yes, only 1) would own a computer.

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, we realize the need for acceptance, understanding and education.

And, therefore . . .

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can read this message you are more blessed than the over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

As you read this and are reminded how life is in the rest of the world, remember just how blessed you really are!

A critical estimate of Freemasonry

Reprinted in part from Henry Wilson Coil, in *Coil's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, (Macoy Publishing, Richmond, Virginia, 1961, revised edition 1995.

Definition of Freemasonry in all times and places

Freemasonry is an oath-bound fraternal order of men; deriving from the medieval fraternity of operative Freemasons; adhering to many of their Ancient Charges, laws, customs, and legends; loyal to the civil government under which it exists; inculcating moral and social virtues by symbolic application of the working tools of the stonemasons and by allegories, lectures, and charges; the members of which are obligated to observe principles of brotherly love, equality, mutual aid and assistance, secrecy, and confidence; have

secret modes of recognising one another as Masons when abroad in the world; and meet in lodges, each governed somewhat autocratically by a Master, assisted by Wardens, where petitioners, after particular enquiry into their mental, moral and physical qualifications, are formally admitted into the Society in secret ceremonies based in part on old legends of the Craft.

Every Masonic lodge in existence or that ever has existed, so far as known, answers that description; no other order that exists or ever has existed does so.

Definition of Modern Craft Masonry, supplementing the above definition

In modern times, the Fraternity has spread over the civilized portions of the globe and has experienced some mutations in its organization, doctrine, and practices, so that lodges have come to be subordinate to, or constituent of, Grand Lodges presided over by Grand Masters, each sovereign within a given nation, state, or other political subdivision, and there is

generally, though not universally, inculcated in, and demanded of the candidate, who ordinarily seeks admission of his own free will and accord, a belief in a Supreme Being and, less generally, in immortality of the soul, the Holy Bible or other Volume of Sacred Law being displayed in the lodge and used for the obligation of the candidate during his

course through the three degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason, the last including the legend of King

Solomon's Temple and Hiram Abif, though additional degrees and ceremonies are not found objectionable in some jurisdictions.

Definition of Freemasonry in its broadest sense:

Freemasonry, in its broadest and most comprehensive sense, is a system of morality and social ethics, and a philosophy of life, all of simple and fundamental character, incorporating a broad humanitarianism and, though treating life as a practical experience, subordinates the material to the spiritual; it is of no sect but finding truth in all; it is moral but not pharisaic; it demands sanity rather than sanctity; it is tolerant but not supine; it seeks truth but does not define truth; it urges it votaries to think but does not tell them what to think; it despises ignorance but does not proscribe the ignorant; it fosters education but proposes no curriculum; it espouses political liberty and the dignity of man but has no platform or propaganda; it believes in the nobility and usefulness of life; it is modest and not militant; it is moderate, universal, and so liberal as to permit each individual to form and express his own opinion, even as to what Freemasonry is or ought

to be, and invites him to improve it if he can.

Freemasonry is a Fraternity composed of moral men of legal age who believe in God and, of their own free will, receive in lodges degrees which depict a system of morality that, as they grow in maturity, teaches them to be tolerant of the beliefs of others, to be patriotic, law-abiding, temperate in all things, to aid the unfortunate, to practice Brotherly Love, and to faithfully accept and discharge solemn obligations.

It is governed by a Grand Lodge which is composed of Grand Officers and representatives of all of the regular lodges within its Jurisdiction, and selects a Grand Master periodically to rule over the organization within the framework of the Constitutions of Freemasonry as adapted for its particular needs.

In short, Freemasonry is a way of life.

As an organization, its purpose is to make good men better