



The Grand Lodge of Ireland News Sheet

June 2002



Grand Lodge Communication Province of Munster

275th Celebration

The Grand Lodge meeting scheduled for Cork in March 2001, was held on 2nd March 2002, for a belated celebration of the 275th Anniversary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster.

Delegates converged on the Rochestown Park Hotel on Friday 1st March from all parts and so great was the demand that accommodation was at a premium.

Harmony Lodge No. 555, met that evening and provided the visiting brethren with a wonderful opportunity to witness "Munster Working" when a Candidate was impressively raised in their distinctive ritual.

On Saturday morning, the Grand Master and his officers attended a reception and buffet lunch in Tuckey Street and enjoyed an interesting presentation by R.W. Bro. Campbell, P.G.M. Elect, describing the Provincial Hall and its many artefacts.

The Grand Lodge Communication which followed, proved to be a splendid occasion with a very large attendance in the spacious conference facility, the highlight being the installation of new Provincial Grand Masters for Munster and Bermuda, which added greatly to the ceremonial interest for many.



From Left to Right:
R.W. Bro. Ralph D Seligman (PGM Bermuda);
R.W. Bro. Alan Campbell (PGM Munster)

Over 400 brethren, ladies and friends, later attended a formal Banquet where the fine fare was matched by the wit and brevity of the speeches. The atmosphere of pleasure and enjoyment was apparent throughout and acclaimed by many. The Charity Collection realised the record sum of €1612 or £1,000.

St. John's Day & The "10 year rule"

Two important changes were passed at the March Communication of Grand Lodge.

1. St. John's Day.

To install the Grand Officers on the first Saturday in December each year rather than on St. John's Day - to commence in December 2002.

Notices of Motion to amend Grand Lodge Laws affected by this decision will be considered at the next meeting of Grand Lodge on June 6th.

2. The Ten-year Rule.

The rule, as applied to the Officers in Subordinate Lodges, has been suspended. The change will take effect from September 2002.

Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium

On Saturday, 23rd March, the new Grand Master of the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium, M.W. Bro. Alexandre Cleven, was installed at a most impressive ceremony held at the Hotel Mercure, Rue Royale, by his predecessor M.W. Bro. Paul Cosyns and in the presence of a number of other Past Grand Masters including M.W. Bro. Charles Wagemans, founding Grand Master, M.W. René Constant and M.W. Bro. Louis de Bouvère, then Grand Secretary.

Ireland was represented by the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Secretary along with V.W. Bro. Richard H. Gray, Grand Steward and R.W. Bro. William Clarke, Representative of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio.

During the Grand Lodge Communication, the Grand Master, along with the senior Brethren of other visiting delegations, had the opportunity to convey fraternal greetings and present gifts to M.W. Bro. Cleven. A very pleasant occasion was rounded off that evening with a Gala Banquet in honour of the new Grand Master and his team of Grand Officers.

Celebratory Dinner in Belfast

A celebratory banquet was held in Belfast on 20th April, to honour the recently installed Grand Master and his team.

Almost 350 brethren, their ladies and friends gathered at the Balmoral Conference Centre.

The occasion was organised by the Northern Provinces Committee under the chairmanship of R.W. Bro. George Miskimmins (PGM of Armagh)

A toast to Grand Lodge was proposed by R.W. Bro. Eric Fenelon, Immediate Past Deputy Grand Master, and responded to by the Grand Master. Mrs. Pamela Waller replied to the toast to the ladies, proposed by the Deputy Grand Master and R.W. Bro. Miskimmins replied to a toast to the Northern Provinces' Committee proposed by the Assistant Grand Master

The guests were told that recent charity concerts organised by the Committee had raised more than £20,000 for both Masonic and non-Masonic charities, including £5,000 each for the Meningitis Research Foundation and Royal National Lifeboat Institute, £2,000 for the Grand Master's Millennium Appeal and £10,000 for the Victoria Jubilee Annuity Fund.



Left to Right: Mrs P Waller; R.W. Bro. George Miskimmins & M.W. Grand Master

Articles for News Sheet

The Editorial Team,
Grand Lodge News Letter,
c/o 115 The Mount,
Belfast

BT5 4ND or by e-mail to:

w.clarke@5hoots15.freeserve.co.uk

Light of the West Lodge No. XX Sligo

We were delighted to welcome the late W.Bro. Arthur McC P Jackson (Lodge 381 Hollywood) to our Festive Board in January. His visit was to present a magnificent silver Rose Bowl that the Brethren of Lodge XX had given to his Grandfather V.W.Bro. Arthur Jackson at the dedication of the Sligo Masonic Temple, in 1897. The inscription reads:

*"Presented to V.W.Bro. Arthur Jackson
By the Brethren of Lodge XX
'Light of the West'
Sligo*

*on the occasion of the dedication of the
Masonic Temple, as a small token of
esteem and love and in recognition of the
invaluable services in connection with the
building and on behalf of the Order
generally.*

21st October 1897"

We are eternally grateful for his kind thought that this magnificent Rose Bowl would return to Lodge XX to rest in the Masonic Temple of his Grandfather .



Sadly we did not know when we were enjoying that night in January at our Festive Board, that a few weeks later, our friend Arthur McC P Jackson would be called to the Grand Lodge above. We extend our deepest sympathy and thanks to Mrs. Jackson.

R.W.Bro. George Ginnelly P.G.M.

Charity Corner

Since the closure of the Girls School (30 years) and the Boys School (20 years) the Brethren have been asked to support only the Victoria Jubilee Masonic Benevolent Fund and associated Annuity Funds. Recent large increases in the Old Age Pension and other State entitlements means that Pensioners have more disposable income than ever before. In these circumstances the V.J. is revisiting its Annuity policy and so watch this space in September for a new direction in "targeted caring".

The Girls Fund and Boys Fund support over 450 daughters and sons of Masons at an average of £1,250 (€2,020). The Funds face many changes due in part to Government cutbacks on support for college education. Various reports indicate that further education now costs £7,500 (€12,000) per year living away from home.

It could be said that our Masonic dependants are cared for:-

- By the Girls and Boys Funds when young
- By the Victoria Jubilee Masonic Benevolent Fund when elderly while living at home
- By Masonic Havens when no longer able to live at home
- By the Welfare Fund through their mid years

Application Forms from the Secretary, Masonic Benevolent Institutions, 17 Molesworth Street, Dublin, 2 or 115 The Mount, Belfast, BT4 5ND

Grand Master Lays First Brick of New Sheltered Housing Development in Cavan

Construction work on a Sheltered Housing Development in Virginia was formally initiated by our Grand Master when he laid the first brick of the new complex. Public representatives, local clergy and various dignitaries were present including the Provincial Grand Master of Meath, his Deputy and R.W. Bro Arthur Pollock, Chairman of Masonic Havens Ltd.

The project is driven by Masonic Havens Ltd. and will consist of 26 terraced apartments, largely funded by the D.o.E. The complex will provide sheltered housing for the active elderly and will be one of the first care facilities in Ireland offering a continuum of care for the elderly on the same site.

The Grand Master highlighted our Order's ongoing involvement with society at large and emphasised that 'caring' was very much part of the Masonic ethos. He congratulated all those involved and stated that he was delighted, through Masonic Havens Ltd., to be co-operating with the North Eastern Health Board and Cavan County Council in this project.

Bangor goes to Brussels

Over the extended weekend period of 22nd – 26th March, Bangor Union Masonic Lodge No. 746 travelled to Brussels to visit Chevalier Ramsay Lodge No.4. The visitation was the "brainchild" of W.Bro. Tom Monaghan, a P.M. of 746 who, having been seconded to the European Commission, joined Chevalier Ramsay about 18 months ago. 23 Brethren and ladies participated in the visitation, one of the highlights being the attendance at a Stated Communication of the Lodge on Monday evening 25th March. The Lodge opened and worked on the 2nd degree and while the ritual

was very much different (California working we believe) from Irish Masonry, there were "strong threads of commonality" between both workings. The whole weekend was extremely enjoyable, the masonic hand of friendship was most surely extended by our hosts and our ladies were royally entertained. The Bangor Brethren hope to reciprocate in a similar fashion, when Chevalier Ramsay Lodge visits Bangor in 2003. The Lodge is indebted to W.Bro. Tom Monaghan and W.Bro. Ainslie Whiting for all their hard work in making this visitation such a success and memorable occasion.



From Left to Right: R.W.Bro. William Clarke; W.Bro. Jacek M Rozwadowski (IPM); R.W.Bro. Richard H Gray; W.Bro. Ainsley Whiting (IPM 746); W.Bro. Jerome Pascoe (W.M.) & W.Bro. William Pollock (W.M. 746)

Harlech Masonic Lodge No.165

There was a warm welcome for the Deputy Grand Master and his travelling companion R.W.Bro. William Manning (PAGM Londonderry & Donegal) when they visited Lodge 165 for the Stated Communication in March.

His visit was to present two 50 Year Medals to R.W.Bro. E.C. Smith (PDGM) Lodge 165 and V.W.Bro. R K Sproule (P.P.G.Sec.), Tyrawley Lodge 217, Ballina. Both of these Brethren were initiated in Lodge 165 on the same night of 21st March 1952.

R.W.Bro. George Ginnelly P.G.M.

Freemasons of Ireland Golfing Society

As previously mentioned in the March issue of the News Sheet, the final of the Grand Master's Millennium Cup will be held at Killymoon Golf Club, Cookstown, on Friday 30th August 2002. All Brethren wishing to participate should contact:-

V.W.Bro. Noel Simpson
13 Carneybaun Drive,
Portrush BT56 8JA
or by e-mail:

par70mm589@aol.com

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