

# THE KEYSTONE



Publication of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons  
of British Columbia and Yukon

## *The Grand First Principal's Summer Message*

*Volume 4, Issue 2  
September 2004*



My Companions,

FACING THE CHALLENGE has been the theme for this Grand Masonic year. I am pleased to say that it is one which the Chapters throughout this Grand Jurisdiction have embraced with enthusiasm and success. In every part of my travels throughout British Columbia and Yukon, I was regaled with stories of how Chapters had become more involved with the communities of which they are a part. And many of you have described the plans which your chapters have for reaching out to the citizens around you with programs of education, community service, charity, and medical assistance. But one such example is that of Keystone Chapter No. 8 in Nanaimo. Under the able leadership of V. Ex. Comp. David Lupton, Grand Pursuivant and First Principal of the Chapter, Keystone Chapter has become involved with the sponsorship of a medical alert program called Life Line for those people living on their own whose independence and security is enhanced by having a personal emergency alert device handy with them at all

times. The Life Line project will touch on the lives of many people in the community for years to come and will improve the health of the general community. Sadly, Ex. Comp. Lupton, who is seen above in his robes of office on the occasion of my official visit, is in grave health and will be unable to join us at Grand Convocation. But I am sure that he and his good work for the Royal Craft will be much on my own

mind and that of my Companions as we join in the ceremonies which mark the conclusion of what has been one of the most memorable years of my life.

My sincere thanks to you all for the contributions you have made to Royal Arch Masonry over the past year and for the pleasure of your good company and fine friendship.

M. Ex. Comp.  
Basil Roland Hobbs

**Royal Arch Masons  
of  
British Columbia  
And Yukon**

**86th Annual  
Convocation**

**September 16-17-18**

**Ramada Inn  
Campbell River, BC**

### *In This Issue:*

Page No

<i>Masonic Wages</i>	2
<i>Grand H</i>	3
<i>Grand J</i>	4
<i>Grand Convocation 2004 - Location Map</i>	4

## *Ancient and Modern Masonic Wages*

Wages figure prominently in Social life. In Masonic life, they have a special significance in both an operative and a figurative sense, as well as in both ancient and modern masonry.

Within the Mark Master Mason Degree, reference is made to the wages of a Master Mason working on the Temple at Jerusalem as being a Jewish half-shekel of silver, which is computed as the modern equivalent of a quarter of a dollar, though the ancient silver coin was, in fact, half an ounce of silver. The value of a half-shekel figures as part of a solemn pledge between Mark Master Masons. The modern Jewish half-shekel is a golden-coloured, alloy coin.

Anciently, the people of Israel donated a half-shekel to the Temple of Jerusalem each year. That paying of a tax also served as a surrogate for a census, which was forbidden via a more direct manner. The payment was made during the month of Adar, which corresponded to a part of February and March in our Gregorian calendar. Even after the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem, the tradition of annual donation continued for charitable purposes.

An old tradition of English operative masons was that men were paid in their lodges by shekels, the wage being determined by the square of

the number of the degree that workman held. Thereby, the Entered Apprentice received the square of one, or one shekel per day; the Fellow-Craft received the square of two, or four shekels per day; and the Master Mason received the square of three, or nine shekels per day.

The traditions preserved today among us today in Royal Arch Masonry relate only to the pay of ancient Fellow-Crafts; who, having laboured in the quarries, and being in possession of a mark, received wages at the rate of half a shekel per day, as paid on the sixth day of the week, at the office of the Senior Warden. Fellow-crafts labouring in other than the quarries, though, were paid in kind rather than in specie; that is, they received their wages in corn, wine and oil.

But there are speculative Masonic Wages that far outweigh the value of operative ones. One of the more famous descriptions of the true Masonic Wages comes from statesman, inventor and philosopher, Bro. Benjamin Franklin, who wrote:

“Masonic labour is purely a labour of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another: Sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness,

and these are the wages of a Mason.”

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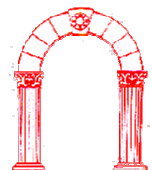
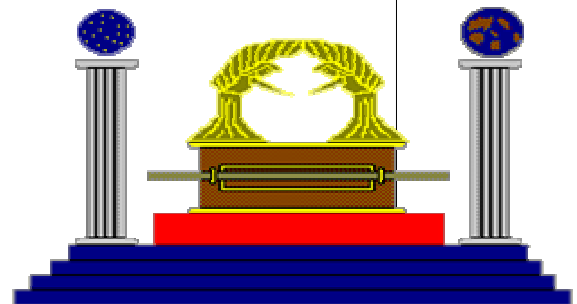
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From an address



*Rt. Ex. Comp. George W. Eaton, Grand H*

Our Grand H, Dr. George Walter Eaton, was born in Upper Canard, Nova Scotia in 1933. He graduated from Kings County Academy, the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and the Ontario Agricultural College at the

University of Toronto before going on to Ohio State University for his PhD in 1959. Throughout his school years, George was an avid sportsman in basketball, soccer and shooting as well as being a keen motorcyclist. Between high school and college, he operated the family farm in partnership with his father.

His military service includes the North Nova Scotia Highlanders, the Lincoln and Welland Regiment, the Vancouver Militia District and Militia Area Pacific. He retired as Major and Area Personnel Officer with over 22 years of service.

George Eaton and Dorothy Sloan were married in 1956.

They reside in Vancouver and have two daughters: Edith (Greg) McNary and Vera (Chris) Townsend, as well as two grandsons, one granddaughter and many nephews and nieces. George was fruit and Vegetable Extension Specialist and Research Scientist at Vineland Station, Ontario, from 1955 to 1963. He joined the Faculty of Agriculture at UBC in 1963. He has authored more than 100 scientific papers and was elected to the UBC Senate and appointed to those of Regent College and the Vancouver School of Theology. He retired and became a Professor Emeritus in 1995.

George's Masonic career began with his initiation in 1956 into Scotia Lodge No 28, GRNS, of which he is still a member. He also belongs to Notre Dame Lodge No. 6 and Granham Lodge No. 33, GRNL and Pythagoras Lodge No. 194,

GRBCY. He is Past Master (or equivalent) of Zion Lodge No. 77, Kerrisdale Lodge No. 117, Meridian Lodge No. 108, Triple Tau Chapter No. 21, Joppa Chapter No. 31, Zabud Council No. 1, Zarthan Council No. 7 (and their Royal Ark Mariner Lodges); Columbia Preceptory No. 34 (KT); Dogwood Council; Allied Masonic Degrees; Lumen Pacificae College, SRIA; Order of the Secret Monitor; and the Fraser Valley Chapter of the Rose Croix, AASR.

George is currently an officer in the Red Cross of Constantine, Pacific Conclave; York Rite College; the Order of the High Priesthood,; and is a past grand officer in the Sovereign Great Priory, Cryptic Rite and the Allied Masonic Degrees. In our Grand Chapter, he chaired the Committee on Constitution during the

**Principal Officers of Grand Chapter**

- |                                  |            |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| <b>Grand Zerubbabel</b>          | <b>MEC</b> | <b>Basil R. Hobbs</b>  |
| <b>Grand Haggii</b>              | <b>REC</b> | <b>George W. Eaton</b> |
| <b>Grand Joshua</b>              | <b>REC</b> | <b>Brian A Richman</b> |
| <b>Grand Principal Sojourner</b> | <b>REC</b> | <b>Robert E. Doige</b> |
| <b>Grand Senior Sojourner</b>    | <b>REC</b> | <b>James C. Whyte</b>  |
| <b>Grand Junior Sojourner</b>    | <b>REC</b> | <b>William Fooks</b>   |



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Editor  
V. Ex. Comp. John McIntosh  
Room 103, 1495 W. 8th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V6H 1C9

Grand Scribe Ezra  
Phone : (604) 732-3625  
Fax: (604) 736-5097  
E-mail: [grandscribe@telus.net](mailto:grandscribe@telus.net)

## *Rt. Ex Comp. Brian A. Richman, Grand J*

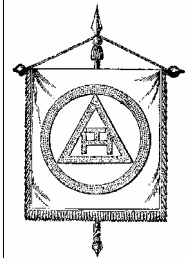
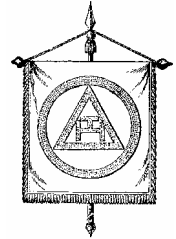
Born in Montreal, Quebec, in 1944, Rt. Ex. Comp. Richman married in 1970. He and his wife, Sharon, have two children: Troy, 29, and Marijke, 25. Now retired after 32.5 years with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Rt. Ex. Comp Richman started in that department as a Fishery Officer and worked his way up to the position of Chief of Enforcement Operations for British Columbia and Yukon. He served as Chief of Enforcement training for 18 years and developed both the Fishery Officer Career Program and the Aboriginal Guardian Program for Canada. He also served as Associate Chief and Chief of Enforcement for the

Lower Fraser division over the course of four and a half years.

Rt. Ex. Comp. Richman entered Freemasonry in 1976, through Rainbow Lodge No. 180 in Port Hardy. In 1977, he became a Royal Arch Mason through Cyrus Chapter No. 10 in Courtenay.

When he was transferred to Vancouver for eight years, beginning in 1980, our Grand J stepped away from Masonry for eight years, then became active again by affiliating with Tuscan Lodge No. 138 in Port Coquitlam and Mission Chapter. He is a member of KYCH, KTP, and York Rite College among 18 other Concordant bodies,

a life member of the Keystone of Life Foundation, in which he is a Director, and the Royal Arch Masonic



### ***MEC Basil Hobbs Invites You To Grand Convocation***

Join our host Chapter,  
**Discovery Chapter No. 45**  
**in Campbell River**

Scribe E:  
Dr. Malcolm S. Cowie  
9380 Martin Park Drive  
Black Creek BC  
V9J 1C4  
(250) 337 2398

Registration opens  
10:00 AM  
Thursday

Convocation Committee:  
VEC Alex Reid (Chair)  
MEC Malcolm S. Cowie  
REC William McSeveney  
REC E. Richard Ebbert  
REC Brian Hemmingway

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