

THE KEYSTONE



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

The Grand First Principal's Address to Grand Chapter

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My Companions,

I would first like to thank you for the honour you have bestowed on me this morning by installing me as your Grand First Principle. I sincerely hope that over the next twelve months I can live up to that honour.

My rise to this office has been a fast one, and for those officers that have recently had to withdraw their names for one reason or another I thank them for their contribution to Grand Chapter. This year, Rt. Ex. Comp. Bill Fooks reluctantly had to withdraw because of ill health. I am sure we all wish him well and hope he will continue to support Grand Chapter.

I would like to thank my sponsors, M. Ex. Comp. Joe Marshall and M. Ex. Comp. Basil Hobbs, for the confidence they have placed in me over the years, and hope that I can count on their council in the coming year. I would like to express my thanks as well to all the companions who agreed to take a Grand Chapter Office and to serve on our various committees, and I wish you a productive and fulfilling year. I look forward, over the next year, to relying on the good council and the extensive experience of our past Grand First Principals. I would also like to make special mention of our Grand Scribe Ezra, Rt. Ex. Comp. Ed Wilson, who has been a great help in keeping me on the right track. And, believe me, that is not always an easy task: My good wife Brenda has been trying to do so for almost 42 years.

Over the next twelve months, I will be visiting every Chapter in our jurisdiction. For some Chapters, this will be my first visit. It had been my intention to try to visit all the Chapters in our Grand Jurisdiction over the preceding years, but my accelerated elevation to this position did not permit it, and I apologize to those chapters I missed. Over my term, I will be placing emphasis on "GROWING OUR FRATERNITY," which will be my theme for this year. By Growing our Fraternity, I don't mean merely in numbers, although that is important: I would like to see our Chapters develop a healthy program that includes education and, very importantly, a social program that involves our families. We have had some set backs in the last year and have seen three charters returned, but we have seen a goodly number of new candidates coming forward, too. On Vancouver Island alone, we have had

over 25 candidates this year, and we are seeing a similar increase in many other areas. Now you might say I am preaching to the converted, and you would be right, but if you are the Companions who attend your Chapters and Grand Chapter, then you are the best equipped to grow your Chapters. Let us get out into our Craft Lodges, wear our Royal Arch Jewel, and ask if you can present an education item on Royal Arch. Let's show our Brother Master Masons that we have something to offer them.

Out of all of our new Companions this year, how many will come out and attend your meetings if all you do is the regular business of the Chapter? That isn't much to entice new Companions, and without more to offer, I am afraid their new aprons will only gather dust on the top shelf of their closet. You have all probably heard many times, in relation to fresh ideas for Chapter meetings, the expression: "we have never done that before." But, if you haven't done it, how do you know it won't be successful? A Chapter that does good ritual work and has a regular education program combined with a very active social program is a successful Chapter.



Finally Companions, if I or any other officers of Grand Chapter can help your Chapters in any way please, let us know. The Most Excellent Companions to my left have a wealth of knowledge that I encourage you to use. Ask their advice and that of other experienced Companions. Let us get our Royal Arch Chapters moving in a positive direction.

I thank you my Companions,

M.E.C. Les Robinson
Grand First Principal

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The Cumberland Penny

Companion Ralph Purvey reported at a meeting of Cyrus Chapter No. 10, that during a recent renovation under Cumberland Lodge an old penny from Cyrus Chapter was discovered. The immediate significance would escape most members but the penny was from the era when Cyrus originally met in Cumberland constituted as Cyrus Chapter No. 142 under the Grand Chapter of Canada in 1904. At the formation of the Grand Chapter of B.C. it was re-chartered as Chapter number 10.

In January 1932 a great fire razed one half the Town, including the Lodge. The meeting place was moved to Hiram Lodge No. 14 in Courtenay, and



even after the Lodge building was rebuilt in November 1932, the Chapter moved its meeting place permanently to Courtenay and relinquished all ownership shares to Cumberland Lodge.

The discovery spurred a second visit to the "Vault" by Companion Purvey. This time he was armed with a metal detector, flashlight and other items used in archaeological digs. He soon found the detector useless as there were numerous square nails from the previous building that had burned. He also found glass melted into solid globs, evidence of extreme heat. Much to his delight after careful scraping with a trowel he and Brother Colin Graham found 3 more Chapter pennies.

It would seem the storage area of Scribe Ezra had been incinerated and the pennies fell into the ashes. Replacing the "Keystone" as duty bound he reported his further discovery to the Council.

The Pennies would have been issued between 1919 and 1931, under the Grand Chapter of BC.



Unlike many of the present day pennies these are made of pure copper and Companion Purvey has managed to restore several of them a usable condition.

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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

My Companions,

As Christmas approaches, our thoughts turn towards our families and the joyous times that lay ahead. Christmas is a time for family gatherings, with gifts for the children and that wonderful dinner on Christmas day. This year, I would like you all to remember that there are many families that will not be together over the holidays, as many of our men and women of the armed forces will be overseas, helping other nations. Lets spare a thought for them this Christmas Day, and pray that they will return safely to their families in the New Year.

I was also reminded the other morning while watching a news program that all children will not be blessed with gifts under the tree this year. Maybe we, as Royal Arch Masons, could help. If not this year, consider such benevolence as a project for next year to assist some deserving families in your area at Christmas. We must also remember the true meaning of Christmas and thank God for the gift that he gave to us all 2006 years ago.

My wife Brenda and I wish you and your family all the joy you deserve at Christmas, and extend our best wish's to you all for a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

**Les Robinson
Grand First Principle**

John Wayne, Actor & Freemason



Born Marion Morrison, on My 16, 1907, "the Duke" appeared or starred in over 200 films in his fifty-year career, winning an Oscar for "True Grit," in 1969. Remembered for his definition of the American individualist of a mythical wild west, he came to represent America to several generations of movie-goers.

A Member of Glendale DeMolay Chapter during his high school days, the Duke was also a freemason, like his father before him. As a Senior DeMolay, he was also awarded the DeMolay Legion of Honor in 1970. He was initiated on July 9, 1970 in Marion McDaniel Lodge No. 56 (which today is also known as The Duke's Lodge), Tucson, Arizona. He was passed on July 10, 1970 and raised on July 11, 1970 in the same Lodge. In December of that year, he demitted to Hollywood Lodge No. 355 in California and later became a Shriner in the Al Malaikah Shrine Temple in Los Angeles. In time, he also

joined the Scottish Rite and was eventually awarded the 33rd Degree.

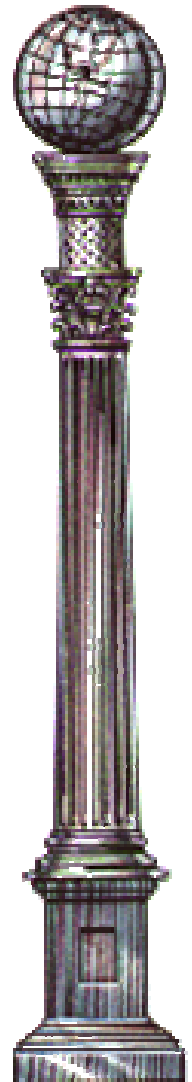
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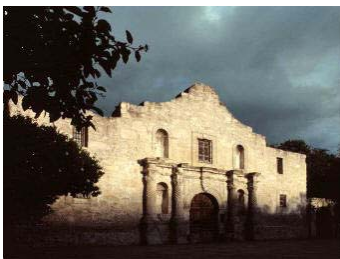
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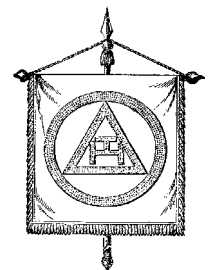
The Alamo



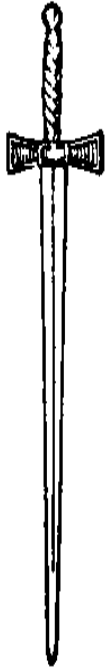
San Antonio, Texas

Among John Wayne's more famous films was **The Alamo**, the story of the defense the death of that fort (the former chapel of the Mission San Antonio de Valero) by American and international volunteers during the months of February and March of 1836. Many of the combatants

were Masons, including the well known Davey Crockett and General Sam Houston. The Mexican General who led the army besieging the Alamo, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna was, himself, a Freemason. The Alamo is now a historic site.



The Knights of Columbus



This article is the second in a series describing some of the fraternal bodies and other groups which are often mistaken by the public for concordant bodies within the Masonic Fraternity.

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternity of Catholic men founded in 1882 in New Haven Connecticut by Father Michael J. McGivney, which has now spread to many countries of the Americas. Unlike Freemasonry, the Knights of Columbus is headed by a single man. Like Freemasonry, the Knights of Columbus offer several ceremonial degrees; in their case, four degrees dealing with charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. Knights of Columbus differ from Freemasons in that they take strong, public stands on social issues in accordance with their faith. It is not uncommon to find Freemasons and Knights of Columbus working side by side in benevolent efforts in their communities.

The explanation of the Emblem of the Order provides further

enlightenment on the fraternity: The Emblem of the order dates from the Second Supreme meeting, May 12, 1883, wherein it was designed by James T. Mullen, the first Supreme Knight. A quick glance at the emblem indicates a shield mounted upon the cross of Malta. That Shield is that associated with a medieval Knight. The cross of Malta is the representation of a traditionally artistic design of the Cross of Christ, representing the Catholic spirit of the Order. Mounted on the shield are three objects, a mace standing vertically, and, crossed behind it, an anchor and a dagger or short sword. The mace from Roman days is symbolic of authority, which must exist in any tightly bonded and efficiently operating organization. The anchor is the mariner's symbol for Columbus, patron of the Order, while the short sword or dagger was the weapon of the Knight when engaged upon an errand of



mercy. Thus, the shield expresses Catholic Knighthood in organized merciful action and with the letters K of C, it proclaims this specific form of activity. The red, white and blue in the background are the colors of the flag of the country in which the order originated, the United States of America. As well, Red is the symbol of Faith, White is the symbol of Charity, and Blue is the symbol of Hope.

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Biography of our Grand First Principal

M. Ex. Comp. A. Leslie Robinson was born in Liverpool, England, and emigrated to Canada with his wife, Brenda, in 1967. They have 3 children: a daughter, Anne-Louise, and two boys, Mark and Edward, as well as one granddaughter. Our Grand First Principal spent his vocational career in the telecommunications industry and worked for British Telecom, Alberta Government Telecom and BC Tel, retiring in 1995.

M. Ex. Comp. Robinson was initiated passed and raised in Adimiram Lodge #118 in Vancouver in 1978, and he is a Past Master of Nanaimo Lodge #110 and a member of Manoah Lodge #141 in Tofino. He was appointed Grand Steward in 2004. He is a 32° Scottish Rite Mason, and has served as Thrice Puissant Grand Master of Colville Lodge of Perfection in Nanaimo. M. Ex. Comp. Robinson is a past First Principal of Keystone Chapter No. 8 in Nanaimo and a member of Majuba Chapter No. 33 in Ladysmith. As well, he is a Past Preceptor of Bethlehem Preceptory #69 in Parksville, and now serves as their Registrar.



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