

Grand First Principal Inaugural address:

Distinguished East, Honoured Guests and Companions all,

I am deeply honoured and humbled to be standing with you here today as I nearly wasn't. This year started with a severe car accident in January which has left me scared, but my resolve has never been stronger. Recovery has been slow and steady with progress daily and humor intact. I want to thank both M Ex Companion Ken Martin and M W Bro Dean Elliott who came to visit, while in the hospital after surgery, it was greatly appreciated more than words can say.

The beginning of the month brought the loss of my dear traveling companion, V Ex Comp Vernon "Butch" McLean who was to be appointed to be Grand historian this year, to honour his memory I will be leaving the position vacant this year.

I wish to thank all my predecessors for their guidance and wisdom along this journey I started in 2019, Especially recognizing M Ex Comps Ken Martin and Patrick Davis who have taken many calls over the last 4 years. Secondly, I would like to thank the Companions who have agreed to serve this Grand Chapter as either the elected or appointed officers, who will help represent this great jurisdiction. I greatly appreciate you taking on these roles and look forward to working with you over the course of the year and especially the line officers into the future. Thirdly, I want to thank the members of my mother chapter Estevan Chapter No. 8. who have been behind me every step of the way since starting this amazing journey in 2019. I hope to do you all proud and bring honour to our chapter while serving our jurisdiction.

As many of you know I enjoy research and preserving history, which leads me to my theme for the year. "Brightening our future by preserving our past". One of the things I will be doing over the course of the year is continuing the monthly newsletter after M Ex Comp Martin's fine example last year, with the restoration of the monthly issue of the Triple Tau newsletter starting in June. It will have historical tidbits and other information focusing on each milestone year for our Grand Chapter.

As this year marks the 100th Anniversary of the provincial body of capitular masonry in the province of Saskatchewan and next May we celebrate our 100th Grand Convocation, the anniversary committee has prepared a jewel to be presented over the course of the year and worn proudly for years to come. We are in the process of organizing the celebrations and looking forward to the Re-Concretion Ceremony of Grand Chapter next May. At this time, I want to read you an exert piece presented at this Grand Chapter 90 years ago at the 10th Convocation by Rt Ex. Comps F. Doull and F. Reilly.

The degree of Most Excellent Master.

- In the M.M. Degree the imperfect work was rejected and thrown upon the rubbish, indicating that only the best could be used to prepare the Temple for dedication to the Most High. "They used the best stone; the best Masons quarried it. They used the best cedar; the best carpenters hewed it. They used the best brass; the best molders fashioned it. They used the purest gold; the best engravers engraved it. In the building of our character let us put the best material in it; --- the foundation stones of Honesty, Integrity and Truthfulness.; then ornament its hallowed halls with the gold of Mercy, the fragrant cedar of Charity, the sculptured pillars of Strength and Beauty; the carved pomegranates of Generosity; and crown it with Faith, Hope and Love"

The Stone that the Builders Rejected

Wisely they toiled, the builder, fitting well
The granite blocks, of equal shape and size,
Cleft from one quarry, that to heaven should rise
A matchless temple where the god might dwell,----
Worshipped above all gods, of heaven or hell.

And as they wrought in that long-vanished day,
Building with even blocks, a curious stone
Came to their hands, for which no use was known;
Not like the ones they used, nor shaped as they,
Uncouth it seemed, and so was flung away.

No instrument had touch it, but from glow
Of earth's primeval fires 'twas flaming cast;
And cooling into rugged form, at last
'Twas washed by many waters to and fro,
Shaped as the tides swing and the tempests blow.

No human hands its symmetry had wrought;
And they, earth blind, saw not how passing fair
This corner stone, unlike all others there!
Saw not that all life's meaning it had caught,
And typified the thing for which they sought.

But when at length the pyramid had grown
In terrace upon terrace, to the sky,
Lo, naught could fill the summit's vacancy
Till there was placed, majestic and alone,
Head of the corner, the Rejected stone.

----- In the American Freemason, taken from the New York Sun circa 1932/ 1933

In closing I want to thank you all for having the confidence in me to act as your representative this year. I am deeply honoured to represent this great jurisdiction and I look forward to renewing friendships and making new ones over the course of the next year traveling around the province as well as our sister jurisdictions.