



HIGHVELD TRIBUNE INTERNATIONAL

December 2008

The unofficial journal of the Grand Lodge of Southern Africa
of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes

FINALLY HERE it is the third issue, and while somewhat overdue, better late than never. This issue will obviously be the last for this year, a year which has been difficult for many. A number of brethren and buffesses have passed away, many find themselves in difficult times financially and many Lodges are finding it increasingly hard to hold meetings or achieve a quorum. May this festive season bring peace, happiness and a sense of balance to you, your loved ones and your Lodges.

Returning Regalia Bro JR Butterworth KOM

FOLLOWING THE last issue of the *Highveld Tribune*, I received a call from a man by the name Manus who said he was from Bloemfontein and had found my contact details on the RAOB website. He went on to explain that he knew a lady in Bloemfontein who was the widow of Bro JR Butterworth KOM who had been a Buff of many years standing and that she wanted to return his regalia to the Grand Lodge.



We arranged to meet on his next trip to Johannesburg, which we duly did. He presented me with a case of some of the most spectacular regalia I have seen in a long time. It comprised Kangaroo, Primo and Knight's Jewels, as well as

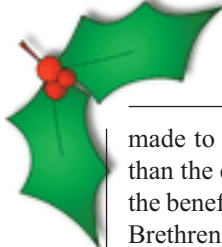
You can purchase this commemorative Jewel simply by taking part in the Auction.



Services Rendered Jewels. There was also a Knight Order of Merit Apron and Collarette, both in excellent condition. In addition there was a Blazer Pocket Badge. This was auctioned at an Inyathi Lodge meeting and was won by Bro Peter Hicks ROH. The remainder of the Jewels have been presented to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Southern Africa Rt Hon Sir Desmond Woods for display.

Bro Butterworth was initiated somewhere around 1927 and was exalted to the Knight Order of Merit in 1954. If anyone knew the Brother or has anymore information on him or his career in the Buffs, I would be honoured to receive it. Among his collection of Jewels there is a commemorative Jewel from the 50th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Southern Africa. The decision has been reached to put this up for auction to the highest bidder among the recipients of the Highveld Tribune and their respective Lodges. To participate in the auction send your details to the Grand Secretary along with your bid to des@woods.co.za.

The auction will be subject to the following rules and conditions. All Brethren of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes are eligible to participate. No reserve has been placed on the auction of the Jewel, but the decision as to whether to release the Jewel will lie entirely with the Grand Secretary and his ruling will be final and non-negotiable. The Jewel will only be released upon confirmation of the arrival of funds in the Grand Lodge bank account. The highest bidder will be deemed to have purchased the Jewel, unless the decision is



made to withhold the Jewel due to the bid value being less than the cost of postage and packaging. All funds will be for the benefit of the Grand Lodge of Southern Africa. Bids from Brethren or Lodges outside of South Africa will be converted to South African Rands according to the ruling rate on the day placed in order to ensure complete fairness.

Also in the case, were numerous very old Rule Books and other printed information. I hope to be able to publish some excerpts from some of these in future issues. In closing, I would like, on behalf of the Grand Lodge, to express sincere thanks to Buffess Butterworth for giving us your husband's Jewels and regalia, rest assured they will be treated with the due respect.

Something of the Past and Future of the RAOB

Bro Peter Hicks ROH

EXTRACT FROM "Buffalo Journal" Grand Lodge of South Africa and Rhodesia, December 1952.

About 1 000 years ago in Greece there lived a great Sage Philosopher and Democrat called Plutarch, who said (and his sayings are quoted today), "The life of man is but a point of time. Enjoy it therefore, while it lasts, and spend it to good purpose." I repeat the last line – Spend it to good purpose. To my way of thinking Plutarch's words must have been inspired.

Brothers Joseph Lisle and William Sennett of Blessed Memory who in 1822 – 130 years ago – founded the Order of Buffaloes at the Harp Tavern, Russell Street, near Drury Lane Theatre, London. These Brothers were actors and life in those days was very dismal and hard. Men had very little recreation after finishing their day's work – except in the pub. Their wages were very small, there were no Trade unions, and poverty, with its dismal outlook, was rampant. Their objective was to combine philanthropy and conviviality – with a series of fines (no more than 1d), which they gave to a poor brother, thereby inculcating a brotherly love amongst those who joined. Gradually their work spread, brethren visiting various centres in the United Kingdom who had travelling dispensations, formed Lodges, mainly at popular Taverns.

In 1865, the Grand Surrey Lodge forged ahead – now called the Mother Lodge of the World. In 1868 the Grand Primo Lodge was formed at the Albert Arms, London Road, Southwark, London. There was a split due to the pompous attitude of the Grand Primo, and so in the Seventies we had the Grand Lodge of England started in the North of England. Today we have the G.L.E, the Grand Surrey Banner, Mother Lodge of the World, the Independent G.L. of England G.E.B, the Middlesex Banner, and others who I understand have amalgamated with the G.L.E. Today, we have over Four Million Brethren with Lodges all over the Commonwealth and also in British Occupied Germany. All these Lodges have the same password and signs and titles, so that if any of you go to any part of the Empire you will find a Lodge and be welcomed.

The title "Royal" has been accepted by the British Government from custom and long usage, but not as a right or patent. We were once known as "Loyal", at round about 1831 there was much sedition in Clubs and Societies, serving in those days as a cloak to hide the hatchings of conspirators, but the Buffaloes are known to be Loyal to the reigning Monarch and abiding by the laws of the country, as they are today. In those days they, the Governing Authority, changed

the password every three months. We have now one password, but a minor Lodge can have its own password.

It is worthy to note that the title of Primo was considered in those days of more importance than K.O.M. or R.O.H.

In 1866 the Grand Lodge drew up its constitution, the forerunner of the G.L.E with Bro. G.T. Wright as President, and Bro. Edward Scates as Vice President.

The first Lodge in any country was styled the District or Provincial Lodge No. 1 of that district.

The officers of a minor Lodge consisted of Sitting Primo, City Marshall, Tyler, Waiter, Constable, Minstral, Taster, Scavenger, Alderman of Poverty, Alderman of Juniper and Secretary. The Host was always Treasurer, but he could not preside over his own house except to open a Lodge. If a Brother contravened the Rules of the Lodge, and on being found guilty refused to pay up or wanted to strike and fight a Brother, he was brought to trial and duly summoned. The Presiding Primo was Judge, the City Marshall Clerk of the Court, a Jury of five was empanelled and they each paid 1d serving money. No Brother was expelled without a fair trial. Should he be a Primo he had the right to be tried by Primos. At a later date it was decided that a Brother, once expelled, could be re-admitted after six months. He was to be stripped of all the honours and start with a clean sheet. Today, I understand there is a Court of Appeal which will re-admit a Brother after a length of time, if the crime committed was not against the law.


In 1874 the office of Barber and Alderman of Poverty was done away with and the office of Registrar and Alderman of Benevolence inaugurated.

The Grand Lodge of England has an Orphanage and a Convalescent Home, a War Memorial Annuity scheme for widows without dependent children, widows with dependant children and Special Grants for convalescence. All this was done by the Grand Lodge funds received from Minor Lodge to P.G.L. and the on to G.L.

This is, of course, in England. We out here, while our funds do not permit such varied and extensive activities, do our share. No Brother here has yet been refused assistance, no widow has been neglected and the generosity of the Brethren here is astonishing.

The Order is the essence of Democracy. An R.O.H. and K.O.M. are on the same footing in Lodge as a young Kangaroo, one can charge the other, no preference on account of his rank. No bowing and scraping to a higher degree Brother, but just the respect to his degree which has been attained through hard work, loyalty and generosity in thought, as well as deed. And so Brethren do your share towards these good offices, that you may rise in the Order. Study the wording of the Ceremonies and the Rule book. Look around and see if you can help someone, not necessarily a member of the Order. Bring your children up as they should be brought up. Respect your wives and the womenfolk. Remember your station in life. That is what we stand for. Consult a Brother if you are in trouble, not necessarily financial. We are ready to do our share one way or the other. And so, Brethren I will conclude with the words of our dear remembered Brother Harry Compton, who in 1868 (84 years ago) said:-

"The Order has held a permanent place in the hearts of many true and loyal Brethren and I venture to express a hope that the day is not far distant when it shall attain that proud and glorious position when its precepts shall be implanted in



the hearts of all mean. What nobler ambition can the mind of man conceive than to minister to the wants of suffering humanity, succour and defend the widow and orphan, assuage the pains of hunger and disappointment in a weary Brother and set him on his way rejoicing. On such a basis may we hope to raise a monument, not made with hands but true and loyal hearts, cemented by the mortar of friendship that shall be a lasting memento to which the future generations must look up to with veneration and respect.”

That Brethren, is our objective and I sincerely trust that you and I will be spared to see Brother Compton’s wish achieved in no small measure. I thank you for your patient hearing and say – Success to Buffaloism.

Honour your Buffess

Bro Bryan Dillon CP

FOR THOSE of us who are married, we owe a great deal to our good Buffesses, for without them and their tolerance, going to Lodge would not be possible. While they are often only too glad to see the back of us as we merrily go off to Lodge, they also have to sacrifice a lot to make it possible for us to attend our meetings. Some endure more than others but generally it is with their blessing that we are able to dedicate so much time and effort to the Order.



The very least we can do, especially for those Buffesses who regularly attend Lodge functions and social occasions is to show them our appreciation and more specifically the appreciation of the Order. It is for this very reason that a Buffess Jewel has been struck. Pictured below, the Jewel is something that many Buffesses will wear with pride.

I received the offer from Bro Bryan Dillon in the UK who is willing to purchase the Jewels on our behalf from Crest Regalia. That said with the Brethren we know who reside overseas I am sure we can source them directly, but it is better to place an order for a larger quantity to reduce the cost of postage and packing. Interested parties can contact Bro Bryan on the address bryan.dillon@ntlworld.com. Alternatively you can contact the Grand Secretary Bro Des Woods ROH and the Grand Lodge can order them on our behalf.

According to Bro Bryan, the Lady Buffess Jewel is worn on the right breast in accordance with the rules of Military Decorations and the Jewel can be worn at all Order functions and social events where regalia is appropriate. Many thanks to Bro Bryan for bringing this Jewel to our attention.

Alderman of Benevolence

THIS YEAR has been less than kind to the Brethren of the Grand Lodge of Southern Africa. Ill health has hit all ranks and ages. Bro Bill Vicary ROH is ill. Bro Peter Hicks ROH recently had surgery to remove a malignant growth below his left eye and, while his condition is improving it has been a long process.

Bro Lawrence Rothwell ROH and his good Buffess Joyce have also had their fair share of ill health this year. Bro Rowan Ford ROH recently underwent surgery to repair a broken vertebra in his neck which was discovered by chance during a visit to his doctor for the pain in his knees. As it turns out, nothing can be done about his knees but his neck was very serious. We wish him well.

In addition, we have had a few pass to the Grand Link Above. Most recent were Bro Alan Eagles ROH (Ratbags) and Buffess Leni Ambrose, wife of Bro John Ambrose affectionately known as Mother. Buffess Leni suffered a stroke with a resultant cerebral haemorrhage. We offer our sincere condolences to Bro John and to Leni’s son Marco. Know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.

To all Brethren and Buffesses who have been ill during this year or to those families who have lost a loved one, we send you our best wishes and trust that time will help to heal your wounds or improve your health.

On a Lighter note

SLIGHTLY OUT of order but here are a few funnies to help lighten the mood and to ease my problems with the layout of the pages.

ADUSTMAN KNOCKS on a Japanese man’s door. The Jap answer and says, ‘Harro wot you want?’ The dustman asks, ‘Where’s your bin?’ The Jap replies, ‘I bin on loo.’

‘No mate, where’s ya dustbin?’ says the dustman.

‘I just bin on loo,’ say the Jap.

‘No, no mate where’s your wheelie bin?’

‘Hokay, I wheelie bin havin a wank!’

ADUCK WALKS into a pub and orders a pint of beer and a ham sandwich.

The barman looks at him and says, ‘Hang on! You’re a duck.’

‘I see your eyes are working,’ replies the duck.

‘And you can talk!’ exclaims the barman.

‘I see your ears are working, too,’ says the duck. ‘Now if you don’t mind, can I have my beer and my sandwich please?’ ‘Certainly, sorry about that,’ says the barman as he pulls the duck’s pint. ‘It’s just we don’t get many ducks in this pub. What are you doing round this way?’

‘I’m working on the building site across the road,’ explains the duck. ‘I’m a plasterer.’

The flabbergasted barman cannot believe the duck and wants to learn more, but takes the hint when the duck pulls out a newspaper from his bag and proceeds to read it.

So, the duck reads his paper, drinks his beer, eats his sandwich, bids the barman good day and leaves.

The same thing happens for two weeks.

Then one day the circus comes to town.

The ringmaster comes into the pub for a pint and the barman says to him ‘You’re with the circus, aren’t you? Well, I know this duck that could be just brilliant in your circus. He

talks, drinks beer, eats sandwiches, reads the newspaper and everything!

'Sounds marvelous,' says the ringmaster, handing over his business card. 'Get him to give me a call.'

So the next day when the duck comes into the pub the barman says, 'Hey Mr. Duck, I reckon I can line you up with a top job, paying really good money.'

'I'm always looking for the next job,' says the duck. 'Where is it?'

'At the circus,' says the barman.

'The circus?' repeats the duck.

'That's right,' replies the barman.

'The circus?' the duck asks again. 'That place with the big tent?'

'Yeah,' the barman replies.

'With all the animals who live in cages, and performers who live in caravans?' says the duck.

'Of course,' the barman replies.

'And the tent has canvas sides and a big canvas roof with a hole in the middle?' persists the duck.

'That's right!' says the barman.

The duck shakes his head in amazement, and says . . .

'What the fuck would they want with a plasterer??!'

Bufs at Work

A WHILE AGO, the Inyathi Lodge purchased a Zozo Hut (for our overseas readers, this is a prefab outside hut, similar to a toolshed) for its chosen charity the Caritas Home for Abandoned and Abused Children. However, the hut needed to be erected and this resulted in a few problems.

The solution was to combine a bit of fun with the work of erecting the hut. The picture below shows the Brethren of Inyathi and Bunduloo Lodges and their families with the kids from the Home in front of the Zozo Hut. Following the hard, strenuous and physically demanding work, the Bufs retired to the residence of Bro Peter Hicks where they enjoyed prego rolls and a few cold ones.

The hut will be used to store the children's bicycles, as well as various other valuable items. The need for a hut became apparent after some of the bicycles were stolen. The funds for the hut were raised during part of a previous Buffs Golf Day.

The Brethren of Inyathi Lodge would like to thank everyone who assisted with the erection of the Zozo hut.

Final Point

BRETHREN, MANY of you will have received a letter from the Grand Secretary requesting input for the *Highveld Tribune*. This issue has been delayed due to the lack of input coming from the Lodges. I would like to bring the *Highveld Tribune* out on a regular basis even if that means only bi-monthly or quarterly. I am not looking to increase the size of the Tribune beyond four or five pages otherwise it becomes too cumbersome but it must be regular. It is only with your assistance that this can be done.

I have spoken to the Grand Secretary and the Grand Primo about the possibility of making the *Highveld Tribune* the official journal of the Grand Lodge of Southern Africa. This will be discussed at the next session of Grand Lodge.

My next point is to urge tolerance. At this time of the year when we are all stretched a little thin and tempers are running hot, it is important to remember that we are all human and that at these times our motto should be our guide. We cannot afford, to chase Brethren a way at a time when Lodges are struggling to survive, never mind attract new members.

That said, all that remains is for me to wish you all the best for the festive season. Drive carefully, drink responsibly and never, ever mix the two.



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