Elmhurst Lodge, No. 941

A. F. & A. M.

Address

of the Worshipful Master, and Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer



ANNUAL MEETING, DEC. 7, 1920

Brethren:

As I lay down the gavel at the end of this wonderful year, my first thought is to acknowledge my gratitude to the Supreme Intelligence for the guidance that has made possible the successes we have enjoyed. As a side liner, or even a Warden, little did I realize the enormity of the task that was before me and the wonderful opportunities that were at my door.

That 240 Master Masons had intrusted me with the management of their Lodge was in itself an honor of which I was justly proud; but when I realized that Masonry was not confined to four square walls and that as Worshipful Master of Elmhurst Lodge, I was also a member of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge and responsible to that body in a measure for the conduct of all Masons living within our jurisdiction; and that Masons anywhere and everywere had the right to look to me for advice and instruction, just as I had looked to other Masters and Past Masters in my early Masonic career, I was for a moment overawed at the prospect. I realized that Elmhurst Lodge was strong enough and great enough to run itself and that I could slip through without much effort, pin on a few ill deserved honors and perhaps get away with it, but to do my duty as it should be done so that I could later enjoy the happy reflection consequent upon a well performed duty, was a task beyond my weak human powers.

My first official act, therefore, was to look to the Source of all Wisdom, Strength and Power for guidance in the task then before me and it is this guidance throughout the year that has enabled me to meet and overcome the problems that presented themselves.

Growth and Attendance.

During the past year 76 have been added to our membership roll, nearly three times as large an increase as we ever had before. This was in part due to the general trend all over this great land. Men everywhere are turning to Masonry as the one agency that will lift the world out of the Miasma of Hate and Despair and set it on the solid rock of Brotherly Love.

The raising of our fee from $50.00 to $75.00 was thought by some to have influenced many who had been hesitating, to hand in their petitions before the increase was effective. I call your attention, however, to the fact that of the 97 petitions received, 58 were at the old rate and 39 at the new, and they are still coming. As we received more petitions at the new rate than we received all last year we can hardly ascribe the increase to that cause.

The building of the new temple has also been cited as one of the causes for our increase, but I should dislike to believe that any petitioner, who was prompted by no higher motives than these should gain admission to our Order. Right here, I wish to say that while we rejected only 7 petitions out of 97, this does not indicate that we have been lax in our investigations.

My committees have been faithful and their reports conscientiously made and in several instances the Master and Wardens have personally interviewed the candidates before I would permit the degree to be conferred. I know something of the personal life of each and every candidate, and while none is perfect I am satisfied that we have not erred in admitting them. I dwell at length on this subject as it is of great importance and concerns the future success of this Lodge.

The work of these Investigating Committees is of no less importance than that of the Ma ster, as is, also, the action of each and every member in casting his ballot and I am convinced that every rejection this year was prompted by conscientious motives and not by personal feelings. Brethren, be careful in your use of the Black Ball—never withhold it when the candidate is unworthy, but remember, you are not a Mason if you use it unjustly. A good Mason is above such petty, mean, detestable actions.

Our 300th candidate was raised November 13th, 9 were raised since, 2 came by affiliation and one has passed to his reward making a total of 310 to date. We have 3 waiting for the 1st degree, 3 for the second, and 3 for the 3rd, also 9 awaiting ballot and 6 more petitions read tonight making a possible 24 with which to start the new year.

Notwithstanding the fact that you have been called upon to give up considerable of your time for Lodge work this year—we having held 76 meetings—the attendance averages 57 per meeting. Prior to moving into our new Temple the average attendance was 51, the attendance since occupying our new home averages 109 per meeting. However, as this includes our 300 night, Past Masters night and 1920 Class Reunion, this figure cannot be taken as a criterion for the future.

Harmony and Goodfellowship.

The past year has been unprecedented in the display of Harmony and Good Fellowship. Only one case of disagreement among the brethren was reported to me which called for my prompt intervention resulting in a satisfactory adjudication of the differences and a continuance of fraternal relationship.

Conduct.

In general the conduct of the members of Elmhurst Lodge and of the Craft dwelling within our jurisdiction has been above reproach. Such cases of misconduct as have been brought to my attention have been promptly and vigorously followed up, and I have as yet to find any evidence of guilt on the part of any of our brethren.

Sickness and Distress.

Twenty-three cases of sickness were reported to me during the last twelve months. Wherever possible flowers were sent and a personal letter from the East followed by visits from the Master or other members of the Lodge.

The passing of loved ones from the homes of four of our members to the great beyond was sympathetically noted and proper letters of condolence written.

In exemplification of the beautiful thought of the universality of Masonry one of our members reported a serious injury to a member of Circle Lodge No. 938 residing within our jurisdiction. He received fraternal care and visitation from two of our brethren and I promptly notified the Master of Circle Lodge. Our courtesies were gratefully acknowledged by Circle Lodge.

This beautiful thought was further illustrated in the last illness of Bro. Frederick H. Bates at Biloxi, Miss.

Immediately upon being informed of his illness I sent a special delivery to the Master of Magnolia Lodge No. 120 at Biloxi. Bro. Alben F. Bates informed me that the Master of Magnolia Lodge and Officers called and extended every fraternal courtesy possible, thus demonstrating the truth that the spirit of Masonry is not confined within the boundaries of any state but is universal; and a brother is a brother whether he be in Illinois, Mississippi or elsewhere.

I have gratefully acknowledged the fraternal courtesy by Magnolia Lodge to our brothers and family

Obituary.

Brother John Ardell Williams

The brittle thread of life has again been cut by the all devouring Sythe of Time, and one of our Entered Apprentices has been gathered to the land where our fathers have gone before us.

Bro. John Ardell Williams of Bensenville, petitioned for the degrees April 21, 1920; was elected May 19, 1920; initiated June 7, 1920, and passed to his reward August 25, 1920, at Marion, Iowa.

Brother Frederick Herbert Bates

On Saturday, November 27th at Biloxi, Miss., Dr. Frederick H. Bates, a Charter Member of Elmhurst Lodge laid down his Working Tools and passed from his labors on earth to "eternal refreshment" in the realms beyond the skies. He was made a Master Mason in Oak Park Lodge No. 540 on August 23rd, 1881, and later became a Charter Member of Elmhurst Lodge. After services in Elmhurst Masonic Temple he was laid to rest in Elm Lawn Cemetery with Masonic Rites, by your Worshipful Master, assisted by 65 of the brethren.

A much more pathetic duty than delivering the funeral oration, was that which called me into the home where the shadow of the law has clouded out the sunshine from the life of a father whose three sons stand accused and soon must stand at the bar of justice. Brethren, that man is a Master Mason and I have reason to believe that if tried by the plumb and measured by the square he will not be found wanting.

I warn you not to be hasty in passing judgment, but remember he has traveled the same path that you have and is entitled at least to your charitable consideration. Give him your sympathy for he is carrying a greater burden than any of you ever have.

But one case of financial distress was reported and while this Lodge could not comply with the request for financial aid, I endeavoured to point a way out of the difficulty and to use my good offices in procuring help for the brother. I have reason to believe that the crisis is passed.

Lodge Visitation.

Owing to the very great amount of designs on our Trestle Board we found it difficult to find time for the interchange of courtesies with our Sister Lodges, and aside from occasional visits by individual members, our only official visitations were a trip to Glen Ellyn where your Master and other Officers exemplified the third degree, and a visit to Naperville when DuPage County Masters exemplified the work. We were much imbued with the spirit of good fellowship and it is my recommendation that more attention be paid to this feature of our Lodge life in the future.

Masonic Service Association.

This Association, composed of the Masters and Wardens of all Lodges of the Chicago District, together with the Masonic Bureau of Service and Employment—composed of 5 Representatives of each Lodge—has perfected its organization and will soon get under way several important activities.

To my mind, the most important of these is the Boys Lodge,

patterned after the De Molay Lodge in Kansas City founded in 1919 by the Scottish Rite bodies.

In the ritual for the monthly meetings of the boys is provided a definite means of inculcating in no uncertain manner: the solemnity of a pledged word; duty to parents; cleanliness of mind and body; unswerving patriotism; defense of civil, religious, political, and intellectual liberty; protection of womanhood; loyalty to companions and brethren.

Van Rensselaer Lodge of Perfection of Scottish Rite Masons of the Valley of Chicago are now financing the proposition and Bro. Millard is writing the ritual. I have taken steps to have a Boys Lodge in Elmhurst just as soon as the organization is perfected.

The Educational Review is another important activity of this society. Your Master presided over a meeting at Maywood recently, where the question of the Investigating Committee was taken up and discussed at length, Maywood, Proviso, Franklin Park and Elmhurst Lodges participating. Much benefit was derived from this meeting and others will be held monthly.

Illinois Masonic Orphans Home.

I made several fraternal visits to the Masonic Orphanage at LaGrange and have been deeply impressed with the wonderful work being carried on there.

There is not a similar organization outside of Masonry that can compare with it, and I urge all the brethren to pay them a visit. I also recommend an appropriation of at least $10.00 for their Christmas Fund.

The New Temple.

For several years our Masters have wrestled with the housing problem as our old home in Mahler's Hall proved inadequate to the needs of our fast growing family. The time was not ripe, however, until this Spring when an opportunity was presented to obtain the Methodist Church property at York and Arthur Streets, at an extremely favorable price.

A $20,000.00 Bond Issue was floated, the property taken over and the present temple is the result. An additional issue of $10,000.00 was authorized to complete the work, pending realization on our assets. All of this last issue ($10,000.00) will not be needed, however, and as soon as we dispose of our other assets, the amount will be further reduced.

The building and ground, including furniture has been appraised at over $52,000.00. The cost to Elmhurst Lodge will not exceed $35,000.00 which includes furniture. All of the Bonds of the first issue were taken by 200 of our members.

I desire to here publicly thank my building committee, Bro. Williston, Chairman, Wor. Bros. Bunge and Hobein, Bros. Pearn, Keimel

and Chapman. These brethren carried the great burden of the work on their shoulders and deserve great credit. Bro. Chapman, the actual builder, took no profit for himself but put the same energy into the work as though he were building his own home. Bro. Robillard procured the furniture at practically cost, whatever profit he received being scarcely sufficient to cover handling charges.

Ground was broken May 2nd, 1920, and our first meeting was held November 2nd, just six months later. Our opening was on the previous Saturday, October 30th.

I am satisfied that the Temple we have provided you is suitable for all our needs for years to come and that the cost is extremely low.

The upkeep has been carefully worked out but is still in the experimental stage. A Royal Arch Chapter has been formed who are paying an annual rental of $300.00
Eastern Star 300.00
Christian Science Society 500.00
Extra meetings and other rentals 400.00

Total Approximate Rentals $1500.00
Estimated dues 320 @ $5.00 ..... $1600.00
¼ to Grand Lodge 400.00

$1200.00 $1200.00

Total estimated income not including fees..... $2700.00
The expenses should come well within that figure.

No Pipe Organ or Piano has been installed but a very good church organ came with the building. Your officers and some of our members have investigated a new organ called the Carulso. It produces the tone of any instrument perfectly including the piano. It can be used as a Pipe Organ or Piano, is easily installed, requires little space and costs about one half as much as a pipe organ. This organ can be furnished soon after the first of the year and is well worthy of our consideration.

Instruction.

A school was conducted last winter and spring with good results and should be continued this season.

Grand Lodge Meeting.

I had the honor to represent this Lodge at the Annual Meeting of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Illinois in Chicago during October, 1920, attending all three sessions.

Chain Letter Idiocy.

I have been called upon several times within the past year to warn you of Chain Letter Schemes and Prayers, and the Most

Worshipful Grand Master desires that publicity be given the following:

During the last few years those who wanted to raise money, discovered the chain letter method of getting into the pockets of the unsuspecting. The effort for a McKinley monument by chain letter, though often denounced as a rank fraud, still occasionally shows its head.

The latest movement is a chain prayer to ward off calamity. Such superstitious nonsense scarcely merits any notice. Brethren have been importuned to send this prayer to nine others, and each of these to nine and so on in ever widening circles. This annoyance has become so great that at the request of those who have been so prayerfully afflicted, I suggest that each break his link of the chain at the first opportunity. It is needless to assure sensible people that no danger will ensue.

Financial.

There is little for me to say along this line for the Treasurer will report in detail on our financial status. I have endeavoured to keep the expenses within due bounds, and while more has been spent than in preceding years you must remember that more has been accomplished. We worked 17 Saturday afternoons and evenings which necessitated luncheons. These luncheons averaged us less than 50 cents a plate, while the quality elicited favorable comment on all sides. The benefits derived from a social standpoint have more than recompensed us.

All bills in connection with the New Temple should be in soon and we should be in a position before long to use our fees to retire some of the bonds.

Our lot on Virginia and York Streets has been sold for $3100.00 and a deposit made as earnest money. The deal has not been consummated at the time of this report. Our Liberty Bonds could be sold now at a small sacrifice, but your Finance Committee considered it good business to hold them for a while for better market conditions. These two items alone would reduce the second bond issue by nearly 50%.

Social.

Our Social activities were rather limited during the early part of the year owing to the great increase in number of candidates. Our Soldiers and Sailors were honored on Saturday, March 6th.

A quadruple celebration was held on Oct. 27 when Wor. Bro. Bouland and his class of 1919 candidates put on the Second Degree. This being the last meeting in the old Lodge Hall, it resolved itself into a farewell night and much beautiful sentiment was expressed touching on reminiscences of the early days. It, also, happened

that this was our 9th Birthday, so note was taken of this coincidence and our Founders were appropriately honored.

The opening of the new Temple was a gala event when Siloam Band charmed us with their music, and Rev. R. Keene Ryan held us spellbound with his address. Dancing, cards and bunco completed the festivities of our House-warming.

A tragic and deplorable ending marred the memory of this night for when our members and guests departed for their homes, a cowardly, degenerate of the lowest type—held up and robbed about 15 of them and completed his dastardly work by murdering in cold blood our faithful police officer, Harry F. Magers, who was responding to a call for help. The murderer was captured the following morning and has since been sentenced to prison for life; his accomplices have not been apprehended as yet so far as we can ascertain.

I sent my expressions of sympathy to Mr. Magers and after his death to his widow, and this Lodge passed appropriate resolutions of condolence.

Another big night was November 13th, when we raised our 300th candidate. This was the occasion of much rejoicing and many visitors were present.

On this occasion I was deeply gratified when about 50 of my co-workers of the International Harvester Company came to Elmhurst to pay me their respects.

I believe, however, that the climax of fraternal spirit and brotherly love was reached on November 27th, when we paid homage to our Past Masters, all of whom were present. The work was remarkably well done and each of the veterans left some beautiful thought for us to carry throughout the year.

November 30th was our last grand event when 65 out of 70 of the candidates raised this year responded to my call. Rt. Wor. Bro. Edw. C. Mullen and a team of his selection beautifully exemplified the Third Degree and also addressed the candidates on what was expected of them as Master Masons.

Brethren: I have jealously guarded your interests during the past year. I have worked harder than I ever did before. I have written 800 letters and made as many phone calls. I have endeavored to see that every little detail was promptly attended to and the task has been arduous, but I loved to work for Elmhurst Lodge and no task can be too arduous when your heart is in the work.

In handing over the gavel to my successor, it is with a feeling of relief as I know your interests will be in safe hands. Your line of officers is good. I know because I have enjoyed their support this year.

For my successor as Worshipful Master, I bespeak your love and support, and I ask you, one and all, to join me in a pledge to try to make his year, a greater success than the last.

In closing, let me thank you first for the honor of being your Worshipful Master, and last for the noble support you have given me in this most trying year.

Fraternally, Charles E. Hallenbeck, Master.

Report of Treasurer.

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of Elmhurst Lodge, No. 941, A. F. & A. M.

Your Treasurer submits the following report of receipts, and disbursements for the year ending December 7, 1920.

December 3rd, 1919. Balance on hand (as per last report)	$ 1,100.81
Received from Secretary, receipts from 370 to 445, both inclusive	28,409.84
Total receipts	$29,510.65

Disbursements.

Paid orders Nos. 620 to 784, both inclusive	$28,577.80
December 7, 1920, balance in hands of Treasurer	$932.85

Respectfully submitted, W. B. Pearn, Treasurer.

Report of Secretary.

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren of Elmhurst Lodge, No. 941, A. F. & A. M.

I herewith submit my annual report for the year ending December 7, 1920.

Stated meetings	24	
Special meetings	51	
Emergency meetings	1	76
Petitions pending affiliation	1	
Petitions pending degrees	5	
Petitions for degrees received	85	
Petitions for affil. received	6	97
Petitions for degrees elected	74	
Petitions for affil. elected	7	
Petitions for degrees rejected	6	
Petitions for degrees objected to	1	
Petitions awaiting report	9	97
E. A. Degrees conferred	75	
F. C. Degrees conferred	71	
M. M. Degrees conferred	69	215
Membership last report	239	
Raised	69	
Affiliated	7	315
Dimitted	3	
Died	1	4
Present Membership		311

Balance December 3, 1919		$ 1,100.81

Receipts.

Dues		$ 1,734.55
Fees		4,075.00
Sale of Bonds	$17,830.00	
Dis.	19.25	17,810.75
Sale of Monitors		1.10
Sale of Furniture		1,000.00
Interest on Liberty Bonds		63.44
Account, Sale of Lot		100.00
Loan, Elmhurst State Bank		3,500.00
Sale of Boiler		100.00
Sale of Gas Stove		10.00
		28,394.84
		$29,495.65

Disbursements.

Elmhurst State Bank	$ 8,000.00	
Account Temple	17,422.07	
Sundries	3,140.73	28,562.80
		$ 932.85

Respectfully Submitted,

A. E. Nelson, Secretary.

Report of Finance Committee.
Annual Meeting, December 7, 1920

We, the undersigned Finance Committee of Elmhurst Lodge, No. 941, A. F. & A. M., beg to report that we have examined the accounts and vouchers of the Treasurer and Secretary and all the records of the Lodge are in proper order and correctly kept.

We have also examined the Annual Reports of the Treasurer and the Secretary and find the same correct.

Respectfully submitted,
Chas E. Hallenbeck,
Walter I. Coble,
Michael Kross,
Finance Committee.