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THE MASTER'S MESSAGE.

November, 1999

Our February meeting format will see Research brethren answer each of the ten questions which I posed in the October issue of "Bay Mason". Each answer will be no longer than five minutes.

Our Brother Secretary has obtained the names and addresses of thirty new Master Masons who have been raised in the last two years in Hawke's Bay lodges. We extend an invitation to them all to attend.

He has also identified another thirty one Fellowcrafts, Entered Apprentices and Candidates awaiting Initiation. Those who have taken their "first step" will be welcome to attend. Their proposer and seconder may wish to accompany them. A special invitation is extended to my brother Masters - come along to support your Master Mason.

The questions posed are those which, I have noted over many years, newly raised freemasons want to know. To us, the answers may seem simple, but I have heard some very experienced brethren hesitate and fluster when attempting an answer. So, to allow you time to collect your thoughts and formulate an answer, I shall reprint the questions here.

- ☐ Why is the pavement floor black and white?
- ☐ Why do we perambulate the lodge clockwise?
- ☐ Why do different ranks sit in specific places?
- ☐ Why are aprons different in colour and size?
- ☐ What are tracing boards?
- ☐ Why do Masons signify assent in a particular way?
- ☐ How do you become a Master of a lodge?
- ☐ Why do some Masons wear jewels and what is their significance?
- ☐ Why are candidates prepared in a particular manner?
- ☐ What is the function of the Director of Ceremonies?

I feel that, with the momentum generated by the Hutson Plan and the increase in candidates, most lodges have their year's programme well and truly mapped out. There is just not an opportunity for the Research Lodge to visit to provide an address on one particular subject, but there may be a slot for a Research brother (possibly a member of that lodge) to give a short "five minute" explanation on some aspect of the degree worked for the candidate. The purpose of the Research Lodge is to disseminate masonic knowledge to all, but especially to our newer brethren.

Bruce MacConnell, WM.