Biographical Sketch of
Carl Bernard Smith

By: M.W.: Kenneth S. Robinson, PGM

This Biographical Sketch is hyperlink to our Grand Lodge Library and Museum website for the year 1998-1999: http://mwglfwa.phanfare.com/Past-Grand-Masters/5340324

The Masonic year 1998-1999 is one the Masons of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Washington will long remember. The Brethren elected Most Worshipful Brother Carl B. Smith as their Grand Master, and he carried out the duties and responsibilities of his office most efficiently and with zeal.

Most Worshipful Brother Carl was born in Seattle, Washington, on January 30, 1936. He attended public schools there until the family moved to Nome and later Kodiak, Alaska, when his father was transferred. Carl graduated from Kodiak High School. He then enrolled in the University of Washington and graduated in 1958 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering. He immediately joined the Boeing Company where he was employed as a Weight Engineer. He was subsequently promoted into Weights Engineering management, where he remained until his retirement on October 1, 1994. He served as the Weights Engineering Manager through the original development of the 767 and 777 airplanes now used throughout the world. His 37-year career was exemplary.

Shortly following graduation from the University, M.W.: Brother Carl met a charming Barbara Jean Ray, and they were married in the following months. They have been blessed with two sons, Duane and Barry, who served as Master Councilors of their DeMolay Chapter, and a daughter, Brenda, who served as Worthy Advisor of her Rainbow Assembly. During his term as Grand Master, M.W.: Carl had the honor of presiding when both sons and his son-in-law, Jack Berryman, become Master Masons during the One Day Conferral Program. He and Barbara also enjoy four grandchildren.

Carl has certainly been involved in community service activities. For 22 years he volunteered as a Little League baseball umpire. During these years he was Umpire-in-Chief in two league districts, officiated in the 1975 Western Regional Tournament, San Bernadino, California, and was selected to umpire in the 1985 Little League World’s Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He was Chairman of a Cub Scout Advisory Board and received recognition for his scouting activities. He volunteered as a DeMolay Dad Advisor for five years and was Chairman of the Adult Advisory Board for his daughter’s Rainbow Assembly. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve as an Air Defense Officer, Artillery Branch, and was Honorably discharged with the rank of First Lieutenant.

Our Grand Master comes from a Masonic family. His sister, Lois, is a Past Grand Royal Matron, Order of Amaranth of Washington. His father was a 30-year member of Northern Light Lodge, No.279 (now Northern Light-Ravenna Lodge No.279), the Lodge into which M.W.: Brother Carl was enrolled on January 9, 1975. He progressed through the offices of this Lodge and Walter F. Meier Lodge of Research, No.281, and served with distinction as Worshipful Master of both of these Lodges in 1983 and 1995 respectively. He enjoys a Life Membership in both Lodges.

His service to Grand Lodge began in 1984 when M.W.: Carl was appointed to the Long Range Planning Committee. He served continuously on numerous committees, as Deputy of the Grand
Master in District No.4 (2 years), Grand Lecturer, and Grand Marshal, until June 1995 when he was elected Junior Grand Warden.

Our Grand Master belongs to Seattle Valley of Scottish Rite and Nile Shrine Temple, where he has fulfilled several leadership roles. He is a Past Patron of Richmond Court No.72, Order of Amaranth, and was appointed Grand Prelate, Grand Court Order of Amaranth of Washington. He is a member of Thistle Clan - Royal Order of Scotland, an Honorary Member of the DeMolay Legion of Honor, a charter member of Pacific Northwest Chapter No.534 - National Sojourners, and a member of the Heroes of 76.

The Brethren and Grand Lodge Team members will remember M: W: Carl Smith as a Grand Master who was always well organized. It was most important to him to assure that his year as our senior management leader be fully and carefully planned so as to enable the accomplishment of the numerous objectives he had established for himself and this Grand Lodge. His leadership qualities, well honed during his professional career, enabled the Grand Lodge to progress significantly. His strong interest in the Masonic Retirement Center and his devotion and dedication to the residents drove him to work especially hard on their behalf. The pleasant and humorous manner in which he always conducted himself when visiting Lodges, presiding over cornerstone ceremonies or District dedication to our Fraternity, the Brethren, and to his family clearly demonstrate M: W: Carl B. Smith’s character. He is a Mason and Grand Master whose leadership is recognized and whose friendship is cherished.

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**Grand Master’s Message**

*(Given at the One Hundred Forty-Second Annual Communication, Wenatchee Washington, June 1999)*

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington, Brethren all:

Let me first extend to each of you a most sincere and warm welcome to this One-Hundred Forty-Second Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington.

We are honored by the presence of many distinguished guests. Some have traveled great distances to be with us, and we are grateful for your presence.

We are also honored by the real champions of our Fraternity – the Worshipful Masters.

Worshipful Masters: please stand and be recognized! Let us give them a hearty round of applause to let them know how proud we are of them, the leaders of this Jurisdiction’s Lodges!

And to all the Brethren of this Grand Lodge, your presence indicates a genuine interest in the affairs of this Grand Jurisdiction and the future of Freemasonry. I trust that your thoughts and actions will be charitable and guided only by a sincere concern for the welfare of our great Fraternity.

Our theme this past year has been to “Let Our Light Shine” – to let the light of Masonry shine. It has become a popular theme and Brethren all over this Jurisdiction are working together to increase the visibility of Masonry. There appears to be a realization that growth comes from the inside and not the outside and that when we expand who we are, we’ll no longer have to accept what we’ve got. In my travels I have seen a renewed enthusiasm in our Lodges; an enthusiasm for Masonry and its teachings; an infectious enthusiasm that is spreading throughout our Masonic Family. Brethren are excited about being a Mason, and this excitement is strengthening our Lodges. With this kind of a
trend our future looks brighter than it has for a long time. When we “Let Our Light Shine” our world will expand and society will see that Masonry’s purpose is to make men better and thereby make this world a better place in which to live.

**STATE OF THE CRAFT**

Your Grand Lodge Officers have worked diligently to strengthen Masonry in this Jurisdiction with programs that improve the leadership and management of our Lodges, create a public awareness of our Fraternity, and induce good men to seek membership in our Craft. As we engaged in these efforts we were ever mindful of the three great tenets of Masonry: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, and endeavored to inspire in our Brethren the lessons taught by the Three Great Lights of Masonry.

Many Lodges of our Grand Jurisdiction have participated in these programs and are enjoying great success as a result. The “Friend to Friend” program has become a valuable tool for introducing Masonry to those who might otherwise remain perpetually at a distance. Lodges whose Wardens have attended the annual Warden’s Seminar continue to benefit from the leadership training that is offered. Approximately 25% of our Lodges are currently involved in combating illiteracy in Washington. The literacy program, “OPERATION OUTREACH,” has not only enabled Lodges to make a difference in their communities and public schools, but it lets the local community know that Masons care about the welfare of their children and are willing to help.

The One Day Conferrals have had a stimulating effect on some Lodges. Brethren who have not attended Lodge for a long time but who escorted a candidate through the Degrees are becoming active. There is a renewed interest by Lodges to put on their own Degrees with improved ritual. Candidates are becoming proficient at a faster pace than before. And our new Brethren are bringing into their Lodge a level of excitement and enthusiasm that we have not seen for awhile.

This Masonic year the Elected Grand Lodge Officers embarked on a new program to assist Lodges that are experiencing difficulty. Dynamic Brethren with an abundance of enthusiasm, energy and the ability to motivate others were identified and formed into teams. Upon invitation, they brought ideas for the Brethren to use to revitalize the Lodge. The purpose of these Lodge Support Teams (LST) is to assist the Officers and Brethren in developing a plan for the future that will enable the Lodge to become strong once again.

Mark Twain once said, “If you torture the data long enough it will tell you anything you want to hear.” The statistics might present a picture of gloom, doom, and despair. The statistics will tell you that we’re losing members faster than we’re bringing them in and that there are fewer Lodges today than there were a year ago.

But I have tortured the data, and it tells me something else. It tells me that in 1998 this Grand Jurisdiction lost the fewest number of members that it has in over the past forty years. It tells me that there were fewer NPDs in 1998 than there have been for a long time. Looking at the trend over the past few years, it is reasonable to project that we will see growth before the year 2000 is over. An interesting observation can be drawn from the results of the One Day Conferrals. The first year of the trial period there were approximately 300 candidates who became Master Masons. This past year there were only 100 candidates, yet, there were in total more Master Masons raised this year than the year before. That also indicates a healthy trend.

While it is true that some Lodges have found it necessary to consolidate with others, it would appear that in most cases the resulting Lodges are prospering and can look forward to a bright future.

The State of our Craft is continuing to improve every day, and by working together to “Let Our Light Shine” Freemasonry in Washington will enter the 21st Century as a viable, vibrant, and visible Brotherhood.
NECROLOGY

Many of our beloved Brethren have traveled to the Celestial Lodge above this past year. While we mourn their passing, let us celebrate their lives and know we have each been enriched by their presence among us. We will surely miss our true and trusty friend, Most Worshipful Brother Masaji “Mike” Matsumoto, Affiliated Past Grand Master of Japan, who will always be remembered for his quiet and gentle influence on our Fraternity. May the Supreme Architect of the Universe bless and comfort their loved ones and each of us for the loss of our faithful and honored Brethren. A memorial for our departed Brethren will be conducted later during this Communication.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No.1

At the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge in 1990 a Bill P. Horn Memorial Masonic Medal Foundation was established to recognize a Mason of note on the world scene who has quietly contributed to the improvement of society. There was never anything placed in the Code that tells who is on it nor what its duties are. I therefore recommend that a section be added to the Code that describes the Bill P. Horn Memorial Masonic Medal Foundation and its duties.

Recommendation No.2

Public relations is considered important enough that the Committee on Masonic Public Relations is a Standing Committee in the Washington Masonic Code. Yet, it has not been possible to provide but a minimal amount in the annual budget of Grand Lodge for that purpose in recent years. As the future of our Fraternity is highly dependent on the public being aware of our existence I recommend that $1.00 be included in the annual per capita assessed of each Lodge for the purpose of public relations (to include construction and operation of the Masonic float).

Recommendation No.3

The Grand Lodge fiscal year has traditionally began on May 1 and ended on April 30. However, the Washington Masonic Code has no language specifying when it begins and ends. It would seem wise to establish these dates by law and not leave them to interpretation or previous custom.

Moreover, it would also seem prudent to establish a fiscal year for the Endowed Life Membership Fund that is separate from that of the Grand Lodge. Money is currently distributed to the Lodges from the Endowed Life Membership Fund in time for it to be available for payment of the Grand Lodge annual per capita assessment. An audit is performed prior to distribution of these funds and again at the end of the Grand Lodge fiscal year. In order to avoid performing two audits and to facilitate paying each Lodge its share of the investment income in a timely manner I recommend that the fiscal year for the Endowed Life Membership Fund begin on January 1 and end on December 31 of each calendar year.

APPRECIATION

I wish that I could personally thank each and every deserving individual for their accomplishments and contributions toward the successes we have enjoyed this year. There are so many that it would be impossible, so I will express my sincere appreciation to everyone now who made it their priority to promote the welfare of our institution.

Words can’t express my sentiments for the Elected Grand Lodge Officers – what a great team! It has been a most gratifying experience to have labored with such dedicated Brothers and I will always
cherish the memories of our year together. My sincerest thanks for your encouragement, understanding, patience, and support.

Every Grand Master believes that his team is the best there ever was, and I am no exception. The Committeemen, Deputies of the Grand Master, and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers that answered the call to serve this Grand Lodge dedicated their energies promoting the teachings of Masonry and strengthening our Craft in this Jurisdiction. They worked diligently to achieve my every expectation, for which I extend my heartfelt appreciation.

To the ladies of the Grand Lodge Office: Your contributions to the welfare of our Craft are immeasurable. Your ever willingness to help when needed, for whatever the reason, for whatever the question, is truly appreciated. This Jurisdiction is indeed fortunate to have a staff such as you working on their behalf.

When a Grand Master first assumes office he has no idea of the tasks that will befall him in the performance of his duties. Without the indispensable services of the Grand Secretary, R.W. John D. Keliher, this year would have been pure chaos. I thank you mightily, my dear friend, for your counsel and guidance when I needed it, for your compassion during difficult times, and for all the things you did to make this year go smoothly.

The smooth operation of this Annual Communication would not be possible if it were not for the efforts of the General Arrangements Committee. It is hard to imagine the myriad details that they have pulled together in preparation for this Grand Session. And all without my having to be concerned because of their dedication and knowledge of the task before them. They will receive our special acknowledgment at a later session.

To my dear wife, Barbara. Over these past 40 years you have given me your full support and love in whatever endeavor I chose to undertake. This past year has been no different. In spite of your physical difficulties, and sometimes considerable pain, you were there to encourage me, to comfort me, and to be at my side. I am a very fortunate man and thank you with all my heart.

To my Brethren, I thank you for your confidence in affording me the privilege to serve this Grand Lodge. While the challenges and demands were great, the rewards were greater. Your efforts and willingness to support the endeavors undertaken to advance Masonry in this Jurisdiction are what made it all worthwhile. I will be forever grateful for all the special courtesies that were bestowed upon me and my Lady Barbara and for your friendship, generosity, and kindness. This Masonic year will be treasured among the fondest memories of our lives.

And lastly, I give thanks to the Supreme Grand Master of the Universe for the health, strength, and fortitude He has given me to conduct the affairs of this Grand Lodge.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl B. Smith
Grand Master

CTM - None
Postscript / personal remarks from M. W. B Carl B. Smith, December x, 2012: ★☆

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★ See M. W. B Carl B. Smith’s video interview, available at our Grand Lodge website: http://www.freemason-wa.org/
☆ A digital voice recording of the full interview is available. Contact: V. W. Bud Cook, email: shaneii1@msn.com
Need picture of the Grand Lodge Elected Officers


Grand Lodge Officers
For the year June 13, 1998 to June 12, 1999

Grand Master . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . M.W.: Carl B. Smith (279)
Deputy Grand Master . . . . . . . . . R.W.: Bill R. Wood (214-169)
Senior Grand Warden . . . . . . . . . R.W.: Richard A. Mccartea (9)
Junior Grand Warden . . . . . . . . . R.W.: Robert L VanZee (42)
Grand Secretary . . . . . . . . . . . . . R.W.: John D. Keliher (290)
Grand Chaplain . . . . . . . . . . . . . W.: Donald W. Carlton (7)
Grand Lecturer . . . . . . . . . . . . . . V.: Durwood T. Higginbotham (80)
Grand Orator . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . V.: Charles R. Davis (283)
Grand Historian . . . . . . . . . . . . . W.: T.H. “Dick” Dickason (92-189)
Grand Marshal . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . W.: C. Russell Coffman (248)
Senior Grand Deacon . . . . . . . . . V.W.: Ted R. Fonis (189)
Junior Grand Deacon . . . . . . . . . V.W.: Charles A. Yeaw (249)
Grand Standard Bearer . . . . . . . . V.W.: Clarence D. Weitman (214)
Grand Sword Bearer . . . . . . . . . W.: James F. McCarthy (148)
Grand Bible Bearer . . . . . . . . . . . W.: Garth E Short (9-279)
Senior Grand Steward . . . . . . . . . V.W.: William R. Haedt (74)
Junior Grand Steward . . . . . . . . . V.W.: John D. McNab (93)
Grand Organist . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Bro. Robert E. Jones (248)
Grand Tyler . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . V.W.: Howard A. Christiansen (129)
Assistant Grand Secretary . . . . . . V.W.: Karl S. Reith (235)