

The Grandest Secretary

George B. Yeates

Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777

December 10, 1988

Editor's Note: The following is the transcript of a roast of our Lodge Secretary, Rt. Wor. Allen E. Roberts. This event occurred at our Annual Stated in 1988, in place of a research paper. Brother Roberts was completely unaware of the event until he was called up. The first speaker was George B. Yeates.

There have been quite a few Lodge Secretaries here in Virginia who are really quite good at being a secretary. None of them is more prominent in the annals of Virginia than John Dove who was Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia from 1835 until 1875 - a period of forty years. Among other notables was James Noah Hillman, Grand Master in 1938 and Grand Secretary from 1945 until 1958. Then came that "meteor of an age that blazed on high" - that estimable Archer Bailey Gay, Grand Master in 1957 and Grand Secretary from 1959 until 1973. All were great and good secretaries.

But then we have great and good secretaries in the subordinate Lodges, too. There are: George Giles, Secretary of Manchester Lodge No. 14; William M. (Bill) Johnson, Secretary of Poquoson Lodge No. 49, he even got to be a Grand Master; a fellow named Robert Edward Simpson, Secretary of Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60; another Past Grand Master, Charles F. Shuler, Secretary of Elkton Lodge No. 74; we have a man, who is a holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor, as Secretary of Powhatan Starke Lodge No. 124 - Carl Leonard Sitter; Fred Lance Younger, Sr., Secretary of Lake Drummond Lodge No. 178; Charles Armistead Sinclair, Jr., Secretary of Manasseh Lodge No. 182, who served as

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Grand Lecturer from 1967 to 1975; there is the current Grand Master who is Secretary of Reedy Spring Lodge No. 203, none other than Glover Hunter Jones, Jr. - as Grand Master he can be Secretary but he cannot be the Master or Warden of his Lodge; the Grand Secretary is Secretary of West Hampton Lodge No. 302 - John Powers Stokes, Grand Master in 1963; Keith Alan Hinerman, Secretary of Babcock Lodge No. 322; Zack Yates who served as Secretary of South Norfolk Lodge No. 339 for many years; George Yeates, the erstwhile Secretary of Tidal Wave Lodge No. 273; and of course, deserving to be mentioned is Allen E. Roberts, Secretary of Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777.

The title of today's topic notes the superlative degree of the adjective "grand", to wit: "The Grandest Secretary." We are not looking for a grand secretary, that would be too restrictive - Archer Bailey Gay was a Grand Secretary. Too, the comparative tense - grander - was not used for then we would have but two to choose from. We used the superlative tense - grandest - denoting the bestest, the greatest, the superbest, the most splendid. And now, somehow, from that long, long list of sixteen secretaries, I must pick one.

It really isn't all that difficult a task. The line officers in Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777 had already selected the "grandest." All I had to do was to fit in a valid set of runners up. Our Grandest Secretary is none other than Right Worshipful Brother Allen Earl Roberts, Secretary of Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777.

Rt. Wor. Allen Roberts was escorted to an armchair in the center of the East where all could gaze upon him.

William Shakespeare in his play Julius Caesar has Marcus Antonius to say of his friend Julius Caesar:

I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.

The evil that men do lives after them;

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The good is oft interred with their bones;
So let it be with Caesar.

Anthony goes on:

He was my friend, faithful and just to me:
But Brutus says he was ambitious.
When that the poor cried, Caesar hath wept:
Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:
I thrice presented him a Kingly crown,
Which he did thrice refuse; was this ambition?
But here I am to speak what I do know.
O judgement! Thou art fled to brutish beasts,
And men have lost their reason. Bear with me.

Should we praise Caesar, or rather Allen Roberts? Has he done anything that is worthy of praise? Well, he has written a lot of books.

Some of them are about Freemasonry. But other people have written about Freemasonry. There was a fellow named William Morgan, born in Virginia in 1774 in Culpeper County, but moved to Batavia, New York. He with a fellow named Dave Miller wrote a malicious book on Freemasonry and you know what happened to William Morgan.

I'm not saying that Allen is a second Morgan but some folks in high Masonic circles would be willing to hold Allen's feet to the fire for some articles published in the *Philaethes Magazine*.

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One of Allen's better books is currently at the printer. Here is the first completed copy. We present it to him.

Allen was presented with a book containing nothing but blank pages.

As you can see, he has completely emptied his mind in his previous books and this one contains all that he should have told us previously.

There is an old saw which goes:

Blessed be the man

Who having nothing to say

Can refrain himself from saying it.

This current book brings that proverb to fruition.

All of you know that Allen spent some time in the Navy during World War II. His love of the water has never ceased and so we have for him, today, a nice boat as a gift befitting the esteem with which we all hold this outstanding scholar and Mason. We initially intended to buy him a 36 ft. boat with inboard engines, could sleep six and cruise at about 30 knots for 600 miles. We felt that all his many friends would be more than generous in their contributions so we could purchase the boat. We had, before the 36 ft. boat idea, thoughts of purchasing Donald Trump's yacht, *The Trump Princess*, but we knew that Allen was not that vainglorious and would never accept such an ostentatious gift. However, after we had circulated the donation bucket among his myriad friends, the paucity of money received permitted us to buy only this.

Presents toy boat made of plastic

But nevertheless, we present it to you with the well wishes of your many skinflint, penny-pinching, penurious, parsimonious, admirers. Happy sailing.

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Knowing your love of books we present you with another that will enable you to more fully utilize your artistic skills. We did so very much admire the line drawings in Key to Freemasonry's Growth and wished they had been in color. Though Chick Larsen made the drawings in "Key" we all know that you were the instigator and the inspiration. So this book we give you today will enable you to fulfill your artistic ambitions. Who knows, you may go on record in the Guinness Book of World Records as the very best crayon colorer there is.

A copy of GI Joe Supersize Coloring Book is presented.

Allen has been in the forefront of those Masonic leaders who have espoused the cause of good managerial qualities in Lodge officers and the use in Lodges of valid and proven management techniques. His Key to Freemasonry's Growth was a tremendous push in the right direction. That book should be required reading by the officers of every Masonic Lodge in Virginia - and outside of Virginia, too. Then he comes along with a book that, in my opinion, tops "Key," his The Search for Leadership. Make sure the deacons and wardens and master of your Lodge have read Search for Leadership. If they won't purchase a copy, then let them read your copy.

Not only has he written about Lodge management but he has also produced a series of excellent training films on the subject. Try them - you can rent - you don't have to buy. They are good.

Way back in 1965, I went to New York City for a course in management. Went back a year later for an advanced course. Came back to Portsmouth and taught the courses for about ten years to hundreds of supervisory personnel.

Allen Roberts' management course is as good as the American Management Association course. Theirs is slanted toward industrial management and Allen's pings on the operation

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of a fraternal organization. In fact, if you have an A.M.A. "Leaders Guide" you can use it to teach Allen's course, takes only a little bit of alteration, but it is all there. As a District Educational Officer, I used the "Leaders Guide" to teach management to Lodge Officers and when Allen's films became available, they too were used. Look well to the American Management Association.

Allen Roberts has produced some excellent motion pictures in addition to the management training films. One was for the 200th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, the motion picture film, *Challenge*. We from the Portsmouth area especially enjoyed the Grand Lodge of Virginia film. The costumes came from Washington/Lafayette Lodge No. 176 in Portsmouth and many of the bit players were members of that Lodge.

The Saga of the Holy Royal Arch of Freemasonry was a notable film made for the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter. This one was made about the time that the General Grand Chapter was sponsoring a crystal chalice as a Masonic keepsake. One was given to him but; Allen received the wrong chalice from the General Grand High Priest. The one given to Allen was of leaded glass, artistically cut, and finely etched. Who would want such an item? It's no good except to look at it. You can't drink out of it, it is too big and too heavy.

Today, we present to Allen E. Roberts the real McCoy. A lekythus (now that's merely a Greek word meaning "pitcher"). It's crafted specially for Allen Roberts from the very finest of Styrofoam and hard plastic. A container of this craftsmanship and virtuoso superlative design is very difficult to obtain. This particular lekythus was secured by our search committee only after a little old lady went home from her hospital room. She said she didn't want to take it home with her, she had several just like it at home already.

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And so, with great pride, we give to Allen E. Roberts this token of the esteem with which he is held by the motion picture industry.

Allen is presented with the plastic pitcher.

It says: "Awarded to Allen E. Roberts, 10 December 1988. R. L. 1777, For a Real Swell Guy."

I wrote to many of Allen's friends and invited them to be present and to join in these festivities honoring Allen Earl Roberts. I was very careful to explain that Research Lodge was not flush with lucre and we had no money to pay travel expenses. Some of them begged off. After all, they said, you can see Allen in the District of Columbia in February at the Masonic week meetings, so they didn't have to pay any money to come down here. But, we do have some of them here today. I call upon Perry Mowbray, Past Grand High Priest, for his reminiscing about Allen Roberts.

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Perry D. Mowbray, Past District Deputy Grand Master,
Past Grand High Priest

If you wonder why I'm here, that makes two of us. I am something like the man who found himself in heaven and realized he didn't belong there, but thought if he kept quiet he might get by with it. But I made the mistake of telling George Yeates that I would be glad to work with him on a program. These things just happen.

Allen has written many, many fine books and done an outstanding job. At one time I had all of them but unfortunately I didn't cross these books with homing pigeons. I loaned them and most of them didn't come home.

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One of Allen Roberts' first and possibly greatest books is House Undivided. This is the story of Masonic brotherhood during the hard days of the War Between the States. Some of his friends have suggested that the reason it rings so true to the period, is the fact that he was there as a war correspondent for the Rhode Island *Gazette*.

Allen has always been a sport. One evening when he was courting, he took his fair lady out for a ride in the country. They stopped at a country store. He went in, came out with two bottles of coke and a five cent bag of potato chips. He pulled his account book out of his pocket, and dutifully entered the cost. "Not bad," he said, "15 cents total cost for a date with you." His date asked, "Allen, can't we go somewhere else to enjoy them without all these loaders on the store porch looking on?" "Oh, no," Allen replied, "I would have to put up two cents deposit on each of those bottles." A REAL SPORT!

Seriously, Allen and Dottie have had a happy and harmonious home life and I learned in strict confidence the reason for this. Since we are all friends here this morning, I feel that I can share this secret with you.

Seems like Allen and Dottie were married down at the little Methodist Church in the villae, and when the ceremony was over, they got into Allen's buggy and rode off into the sunset. A fast moving Model T Ford careened around the corner, and the horse reared up in fright. Allen, ever the gentleman, excused himself, got out of the buggy, went up to the horse, looked him right in the eye and said, "Horse, that's once." Got back in the buggy and proceeded down the road.

They came by the Fairfield lumber company just at noon, and the sawmill whistle let out a loud blast. Again the horse reared up. Again, Allen got out, went up to the horse, looked him in the eye and said, "Horse, that's twice." Got back in the buggy and continued on.

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Just as they reached the Episcopal Church, the sexton was out ringing the bell. Again, the horse reared up. Allen went up to the horse, looked him in the eye, and said "Horse, that is three times." He pulled out a pistol and shot the horse dead.

Dottie went up like a rocket. "Mr. Roberts (she didn't know him as well as we do), I never knew that you had such a temper. I never would have married you if I had known this." She kept it up for about five minutes. Finally she became quiet, Allen looked her in the eye and said "DOTTIE, THAT IS ONCE."

Allen is interviewed quite a bit about his books and not long ago, one of the reporters wanted to get the wife's side of being married to a celebrity. One of the questions asked was whether Allen believed in life after death. "Life after death," she replied, "old Allen doesn't even believe' in life after supper."

Actually Allen works quite late at night writing his books. One night he crawled into bed and Dottie said: "Oh, God, your feet are cold." Allen said: "You can call me honey when we're alone."

Like most successful men, Allen has Dottie to thank for his great achievements in the Masonic fraternity. Shortly after they were married, she told him that all the males in her family had been Masons and she thought that he should be one too. He told her that he would rather join the Odd Fellows - they had a nice building, pool table, ping pong table, and a bar. She told him that if he expected their marriage to be a happy one, that he had better become a Mason. He made inquiry, petitioned, and was accepted. In due time he was told to come down for initiation.

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He was late coming home that night. Dottie was waiting up. "Tell me everything that happened." she demanded. He tried to explain that he couldn't. But she insisted, told him that they were not going to bed until he told her everything. He finally broke down - told her that they put him in a dark room, opened the door with a blinding light in his eyes, and there in a long white dress stood the most beautiful girl that he has ever seen. She held out her arms and said KISS me.

"Quickly," Dottie demanded, "Did you kiss her?"

"Of course I did," said Allen, "otherwise I would have been an Odd Fellow."

Some years ago, I traveled from Canada to Florida attending Grand Royal Arch Chapter Convocations. When they found out I was from Virginia, they asked if I knew Allen Roberts. I told them that we were in the same Royal Arch Chapter; same Research Lodge. This gave me an exalted status in their eyes.

And they wanted to know more. I told them that Allen had paid me handsomely to keep quiet and if he had given me another dollar, I would not have exposed all of his secrets today.

We have had some fun today at Allen's expense. Some years ago a good friend told me that people don't kid with people they don't like. Truthfully, Allen has had an influence on Freemasonry that cannot be measured. It has spread beyond the borders of our state, and will undoubtedly be felt for many years to come. We are proud of his accomplishments and treasure his associations with us. He is a good sport, even if he refused to pay a two cent deposit on the bottles.

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George Yeates: Another of Allen's friends of long standing is the "old-money-bags" of this Lodge, Stewart W. Miner. Most Worshipful Brother Miner is a Past Grand Master, a Past Grand High Priest, and, not being content to be idle after his retirement from a civilian occupation and as the titular head of Masons and the Royal Arch in Virginia, he is now the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. We call upon Stewart Miner for his commentary on the Masonic life of Allen E. Roberts.

Stewart Wilson Miner, Past Grand Master,
Past Grand High Priest,
Past Master, Virginia Research Lodge

George I'll be very brief indeed. It's hard to follow someone like Perry. But I do want to pay tribute to Allen in a number of ways. One of his achievements was that he was District Deputy Grand Master in 1974 when I had the opportunity to lead the Craft in Virginia. He did an outstanding job in this district. I thanked him then and I thank him now for the leadership he provided.

As a leader in Masonry and some of the branches thereof I have traveled widely. I've met a good many people as I went from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. There are those who will ask about Allen Roberts and what he's doing and how he's getting along. And not only in this country. I was very pleasantly surprised a few years back when I visited the Grand Lodge building on Great Queen Street in London to find a little book store across the street. I walked in and downstairs to where the publications were being sold. It was heartwarming because in the most prominent position of the books being sold were the publications of Allen Roberts.

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This man is renown in Freemasonry throughout the world. It has been a pleasure to work with this man throughout the years, and especially in this Lodge. We both love this Lodge very much. Our relationship has been a good one indeed.

The one thing that has not been mentioned this morning and it pertains to Archer Gay. Some of you know that at one time Allen was the Deputy Grand Secretary to Archer. He did a very fine job in that capacity. Allen when he was Master of this Lodge stepped aside to let Archer serve one of his years in the East. These two great men had a fine relationship because they were willing to cooperate with each other. Al, I wish you the best of everything as life progresses.

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George Yeates: A man, who is a great friend of Research Lodge, said he would like to participate in this agape for Allen Roberts. Most Worshipful Lloyd U. Jefferson served as Senior Warden pro tempore for the whole year that Neville Hindman, was so dreadfully ill during his term of office as Worshipful Master of Research Lodge. Lloyd, too, wants to relate some incidents in the career of our honoree. So, Lloyd, if you will come here we'll let you have a whack at Allen.

Lloyd U. Jefferson, Past Grand Master

Oh, I have looked forward to this roast. And, Al, I'm not going to be as kind to you as was Stew Miner. First of all, success hasn't changed Al Roberts one bit. He's still the same stinker that he always was.

There may not be much character on that face, but what a face on that character. You take one look at him and wonder if there were any other survivors.

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Really, better bodies than his can be found on a used car lot. Following his last physical he asked the doctor: "How do I stand?" The doctor replied: "I don't know; it's a miracle."

Did you know that Al has a bad case of insomnia? He can't sleep because of worrying. You know what he worries about? Not sleeping. Even when he sleeps he dreams that he can't sleep. And he worries a lot about those reports about smoking being bad for your health. As a matter of fact, these reports make him so nervous that he's smoking twice as much now.

It's really educational to see Al run a meeting. He's a real executive. He delegates all authority; shifts all the blame; and then if everything goes OK, he takes all the credit. From time to time Al is a speaker in the Lodges around Richmond. He speaks straight from the shoulder. Too bad his remarks don't start from a little higher up. He doesn't put enough fire into his speeches. It would be better if he put his speeches into the fire.

But you know when he was young he was determined to climb the ladder of success. Years ago he was an unknown failure; now he is a known failure. But I can tell you he never makes the same mistake twice. Every day he finds some new mistakes to make.

Two big firms, as a matter of fact, are fighting for his services. The loser gets him.

Allen not only starts things that he cannot finish, he starts things that he can't even begin.

He's certainly the man of his house. When he and Dottie have an argument, he always has the last word: "I apologize."

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He used to be a man about town, but Dottie turned him into a mouse around the house. You talk about being henpecked, Dottie makes him wash and iron his own aprons.

Have you wondered how old Al is? On his last birthday there were enough candles on his cake to give everyone there a sun tan. In fact the guests tried to count the candles on the cake but the heat drove them back.

You know when Al gets a cold he buys a bottle of whiskey and in no time it's gone - not the cold but the bottle of whiskey.

Sometimes he drinks Bloody Mary's mixed with carrot juice. They haven't helped much, but he sees so much better. I warned him about that liquor, that it's slow poison, but he says he doesn't mind, he's in no hurry anyway.

Incidentally he's been expelled from Alcoholics Anonymous. He just wasn't anonymous enough.

Now, Al, if I've said anything to insult you, believe me I've tried my best.

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George Yeates: Right Worshipful Brother Phillip V. Whitley, Worshipful Master of this Lodge last year, has some insights into what makes Allen E. Roberts to be Allen E. Roberts. Let us hear from our good friend Colonel Phil.

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Phillip V. Whitley, P.D.D.G.M., Past Master No. 1777

When our most distinguished leader for this program today asked me to participate. I made some notes. But, Allen, do you know what my notes consist of? A three by five card with someone else's address on it.

What can you say about a Secretary who has done everything, been everywhere, talked to many thousands of Masons (seldom talking with them)? His friend Perry Mowbray outlined some of his past history here in Highland Springs. Brother Stew Miner gave a glowing report about him. But Lloyd Jefferson came along and told the truth.

So what does this leave me to say? Well, when I was presiding here in the Lodge Allen would call me and tell me he was ready to publish the bulletin and what did I have to say. I'd tell him: "Not too much." Allen would say: "That's plenty. I'll publish it."

Also what can you do for a Secretary who has just been awarded a copy of his literary masterpiece (which is blank, by the way). What do you do for a Secretary who has been given a boat, but no docking space. Maybe that's new for the Navy.

Back to training, Allen. Allen thought he'd take up a few sports. What I found out he was going to use a computer instead of a pencil, because Allen's of the opinion that he may want to play golf with Lloyd Jefferson and myself. But he said he has too much weight to carry. I didn't know whether that meant: in the anchor business or the physical business.

But, Allen, on this day in which you are being honored as the first Secretary ever roasted in the Research Lodge, I certainly hope that you will adequately portray this in the next

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Transactions. All of your Brethren so well represented here today offer you hearty congratulations for a job well done.

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George Yeates: I asked one man to participate knowing that he has had close contacts with Allen Roberts for several years now. I explained that we would both praise Allen and also have some fun at his expense. The verb "roast" is sometimes used at such affairs as this, although my thoughts about a "roast" is to unmercifully poke fun at someone and care not whether the recipient enjoys it or not. I did not want this to be that sort of event. I had hoped to praise as well as to engage in some caviling.

This particular person would have naught to do with any poking of fun at Allen Roberts. "He is too good a friend and has been of such great help to me," he said. "I will say some nice things about Allen but nothing else."

We saved this person until the last so that if, perchance, we have wounded or hurt Allen's feelings, this man can let Allen know how we all really feel about him. I call upon Wor. Bro. Keith Hinerman, Secretary of Babcock Lodge No. 322.

Keith A. Hinerman, Past Master,
P.D.G.H.P.,
Junior Deacon No. 1777,
Secretary, Babcock Lodge No. 322

I come here today to speak about our Secretary, Allen E. Roberts. I did not want to use this time to poke fun at or roast Allen. I am afraid that I just don't have the talent to do

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this. But, at the same time, I could not let an opportunity slip away without saying something about my friend. I want to speak about what Allen has meant to me, and possibly others who have known and worked with Allen will agree with what I have to say.

There have been 28 men who have served in the East at Babcock Lodge since Allen Roberts held that position in 1959. I would say that most, if not all, should thank Allen for the help that he has given. He, has always been, and still is, willing to give the Master assistance when called to do so. To Allen the welfare of his Symbolic Lodge and Freemasonry has always outweighed personal feelings and interests.

I have heard Allen state on many occasions that a Past Master should always feel a commitment to see that the men who follow in the East have more successful years than he. Allen has not just given this advice, he has lived it. For as I look back through Babcock's records, I see many occasions where its members can take pride in its accomplishments. When we look closer at these accomplishments, we learn that a major force behind the development and the planning of these events was Allen E. Roberts.

There would be no Virginia Craftsmen without Allen. It is probably safe to say that without his dedication and leadership, this group would not have been formed, let alone survive for 25 years.

Allen has been a source of strength and leadership in other Masonic related organizations too. The Philalethes Society is very dear to Allen's heart. Allen believes that this organization, with its emphasis on education and research, can help Freemasonry regain its health and vigor. Also, Allen has given much time and energy in working in Royal Arch Masonry and Councils of Allied Masonic Degrees.

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Let's not forget the hours, days and years that Allen Roberts has spent in researching and writing on different Masonic subjects. This is an area of Freemasonry where help is desperately needed. There are so few Masons left who are willing to make the commitment, sacrifice and effort that is necessary to write about the Fraternity. Yes, Allen has definitely contributed his talents in this area. We are a stronger institution as a result of his contributions.

Now, on a personal side. Allen Roberts has always been someone who could give wise counsel. Honestly, some of the advice that he gave me, I didn't want to hear, but it was the type of advice that I needed to hear. The type of advice that makes me a stronger and hopefully a better Freemason. He has also patiently listened to the frustrations of a young Mason who has just begun getting his feet wet in the activities of the Craft. Yes, Allen Roberts is my friend. But, of more importance, he is my Brother.

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George Yeates: Kim Grove had a series of cartoons about "LOVE IS . . ." Well, some of them with a little paraphrasing fit our friend Allen Roberts.

Love is forgiving him even though he makes you very mad.

Love is sharing even the hard times.

Love is paying us a compliment.

Love is consoling us when we do something stupid.

Love is listening to our problems instead of telling us his.

Allen Roberts has received many medals and decorations from Masonic organizations: The Josiah H. Drummond Medal from the Grand Lodge of Maine; Silver Medal from

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General Grand Royal Arch Chapter; John Dove Medal from Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Virginia.; Virginia Craftsmen Distinguished Service Medal.; Gold Medal of the Glasgow Compass Association; James Case Medal of Excellence from the Masonic Lodge of Research in Connecticut; and the George Washington Distinguished Service Medal from the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

He doesn't know it - at least we hope it has been kept a secret from him - but the Worshipful Master of Virginia Research Lodge No. 1777 has had a special Distinguished Service Medal handcrafted for presentation to Allen Earl Roberts in recognition of his years of exemplary service to this Lodge. His thoughts, ideas, and dogged determination have made this into a great research lodge.

'Tis true that often we were a bit reluctant and sometimes had to be dragged along yelling and screaming. But Allen Roberts provided the LIGHT and, through his careful nurturing, guided the officers of the Lodge. He is always there when needed. The prophet Isaiah says in Chapter 42, verse 16:

And I will bring the blind by the way that they knew not:
I will lead them in paths that they have not known:
I will make darkness light before them,
And crooked things straight.
These things I will do unto them,
And not forsake them.

You may recognize that bit of scripture as being a portion of the Royal Arch ritual. I feel it adequately describes Allen Roberts's conduct of himself as Secretary of Virginia Research Lodge. I call upon Worshipful Brother Edward R. Schmidt to present the Virginia Research Lodge medal.

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The Worshipful Master presented Allen E. Roberts and Steward Wilson Miner with silver medals handcrafted in silver by John Chesley Lundin.

George Yeates: The Secretary knew nothing about what was going on, and the Treasurer knew only half of what was going on. Allen we have all had a turn at praising and at lambasting you. We sincerely hope that you have entered into the joy of the occasion. Your Lodge has wanted to celebrate the fact that you are our Secretary and our guiding light. We don't know what we would do without you. We will now shut-up and sit down and ask that you, the honored guest for today, respond to these goings-on.

oOo

Allen E. Roberts Responds

I am still in a state of shock. Never did I expect to be roasted and honored in this Lodge which I love dearly. I had no idea such an affair was going to take place. And a Secretary ought to know everything.

I thank you all sincerely for the kind things you have said. I'll tell you that most of those cracks you heard I have said much better. One day perhaps I'll be able to demonstrate that when we castrate someone else.

But I do thank you. I consider this perhaps the greatest honor that anyone has ever bestowed on me, if that's the word to use, because it came from you fellows who know me better than anyone else. I appreciate it more than I can say.

Thank you all. The hour is late and lunch is ready to be served, and I'm sure you want to eat. So, thank you sincerely.

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